

## MARIE AND PIERRE CURIE

Marie Sklodovska was born in Poland at a time when women were not allowed admission into colleges. Determined to study science, Marie worked as a governess and saved enough to enroll in a university in Paris.

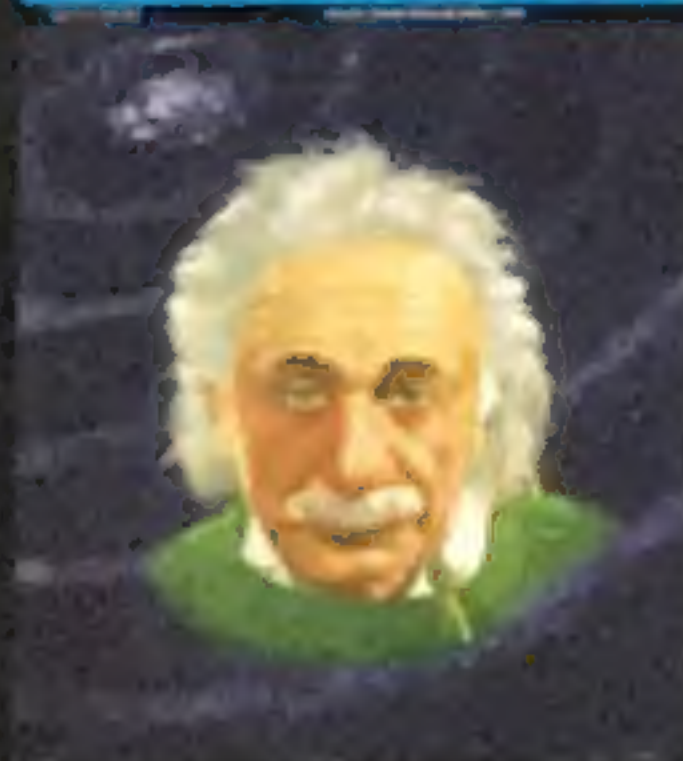
It was in Paris that she met and married Pierre Curie, a respected physicist. Their passion for science and their devotion to each other, resulted in a partnership that produced two Nobel Prizes (one shared by Pierre and Marie, one for Marie alone), two daughters (one of whom, Irene, also won a Nobel Prize later), two new elements (Radium and Polonium) and an entire new kind of energy – radioactivity.

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VISIONARIES



# MARIE AND PIERRE CURIE

THEY SHARED A PASSION FOR SCIENCE

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# PIERRE AND MARIE CURIE

IT WAS A SUNDAY MORNING. THE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL IN WARSAW WAS STEEPED IN SILENCE. ALL OF A SUDDEN THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN BY THE SHRILL CRIES OF CHILDREN.

AIM AT THE TOWER! OHH!



THERE WERE FOUR OF THEM, THE CHILDREN OF PROFESSOR SKLODOVSKI, THE SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE SCHOOL, AND THEY WERE PLAYING A WAR GAME.

COME ON! BRING MORE WEAPONS!

LET'S DESTROY THE TSAR'S ARMY. GET OUT OF THE WAY, MANYA!



JOSEPH, BRONYA, HELA AND MANYA HAD CONVERTED THEIR BEDROOM INTO A BATTLE-FIELD AND THEIR TOYS INTO WEAPONS OF WAR. JUST THEN—

MANYA!

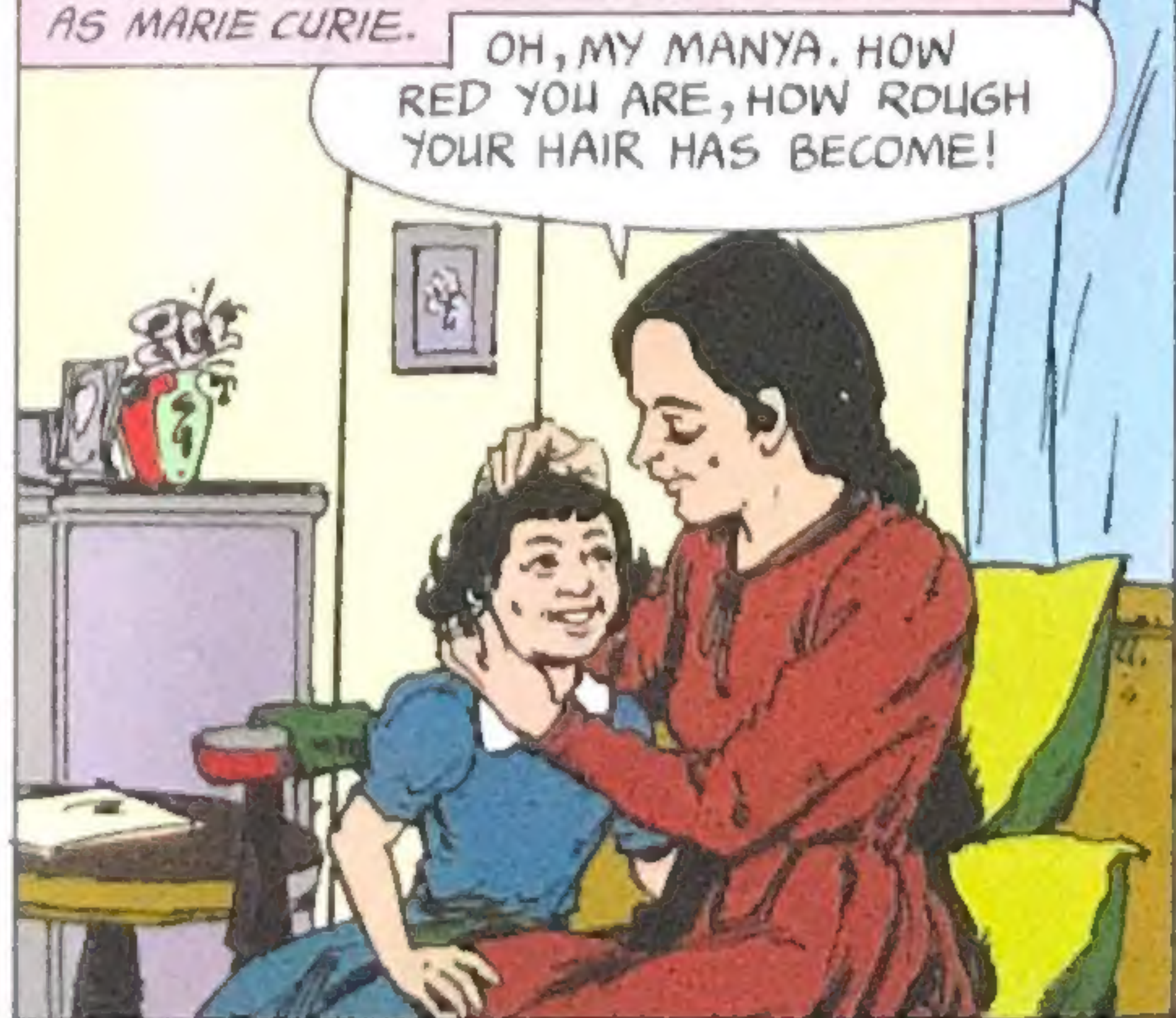


MANYA, THE YOUNGEST, RELUCTANTLY LEFT ON HEARING HER MOTHER'S VOICE.

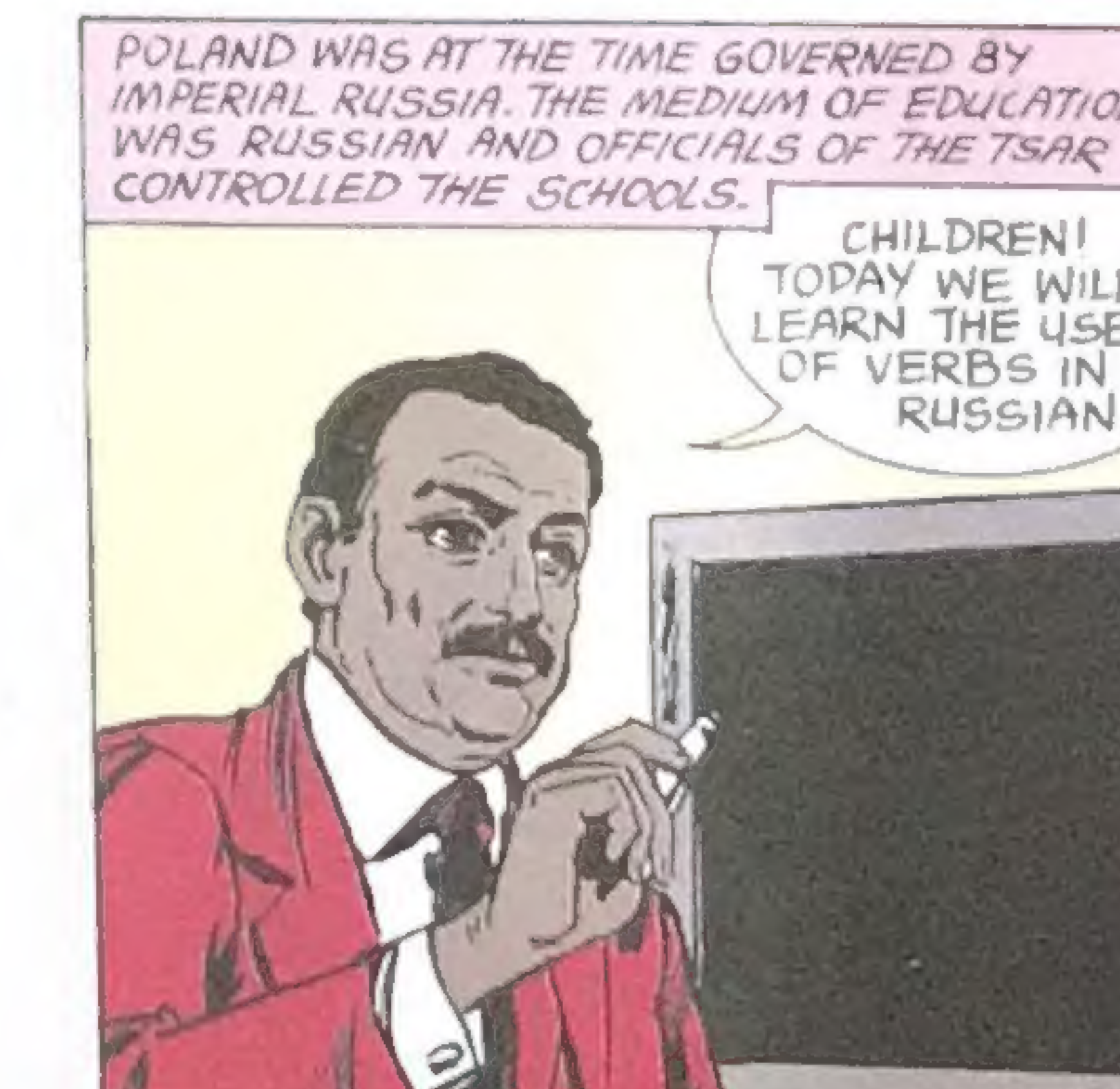
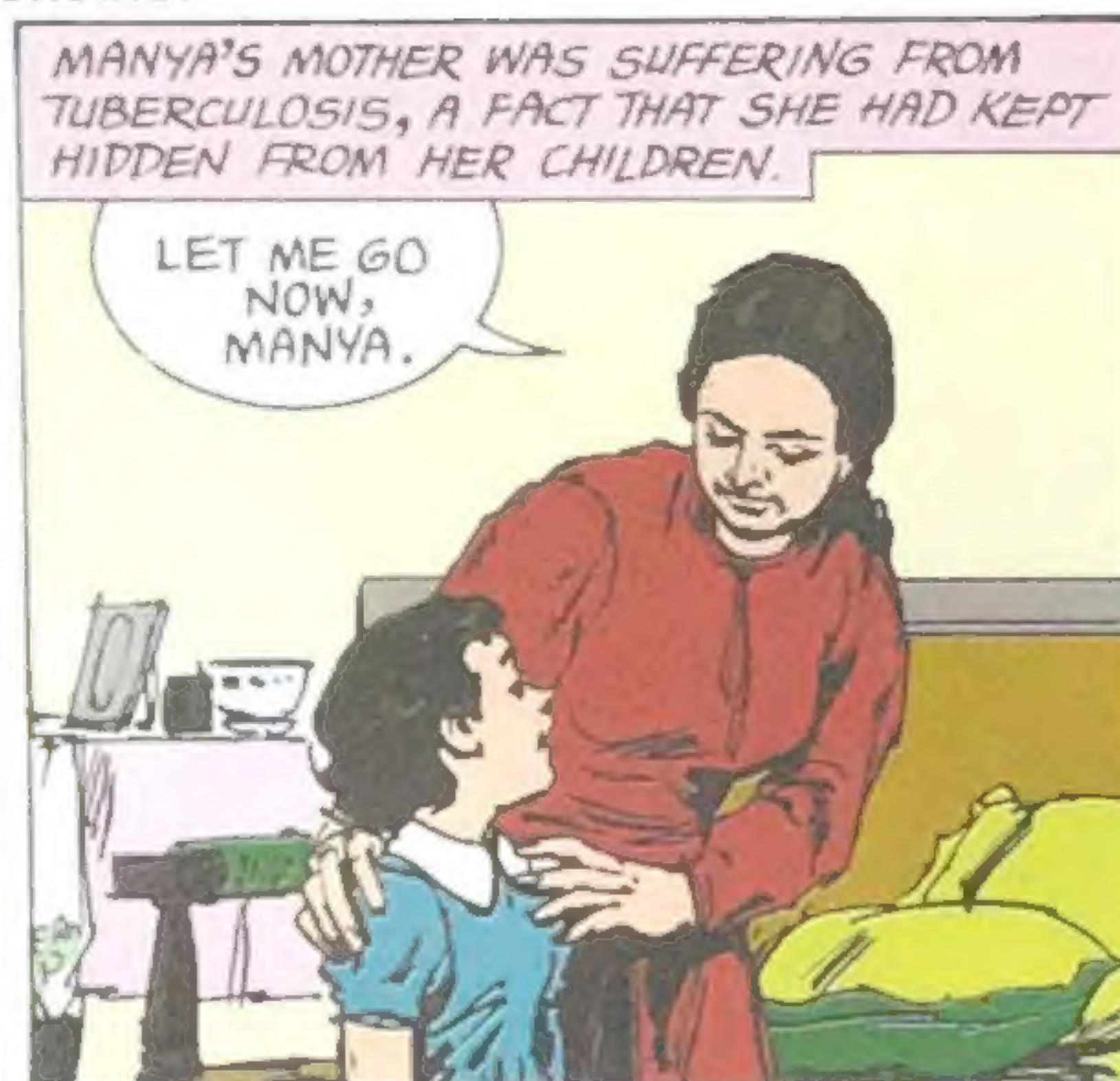
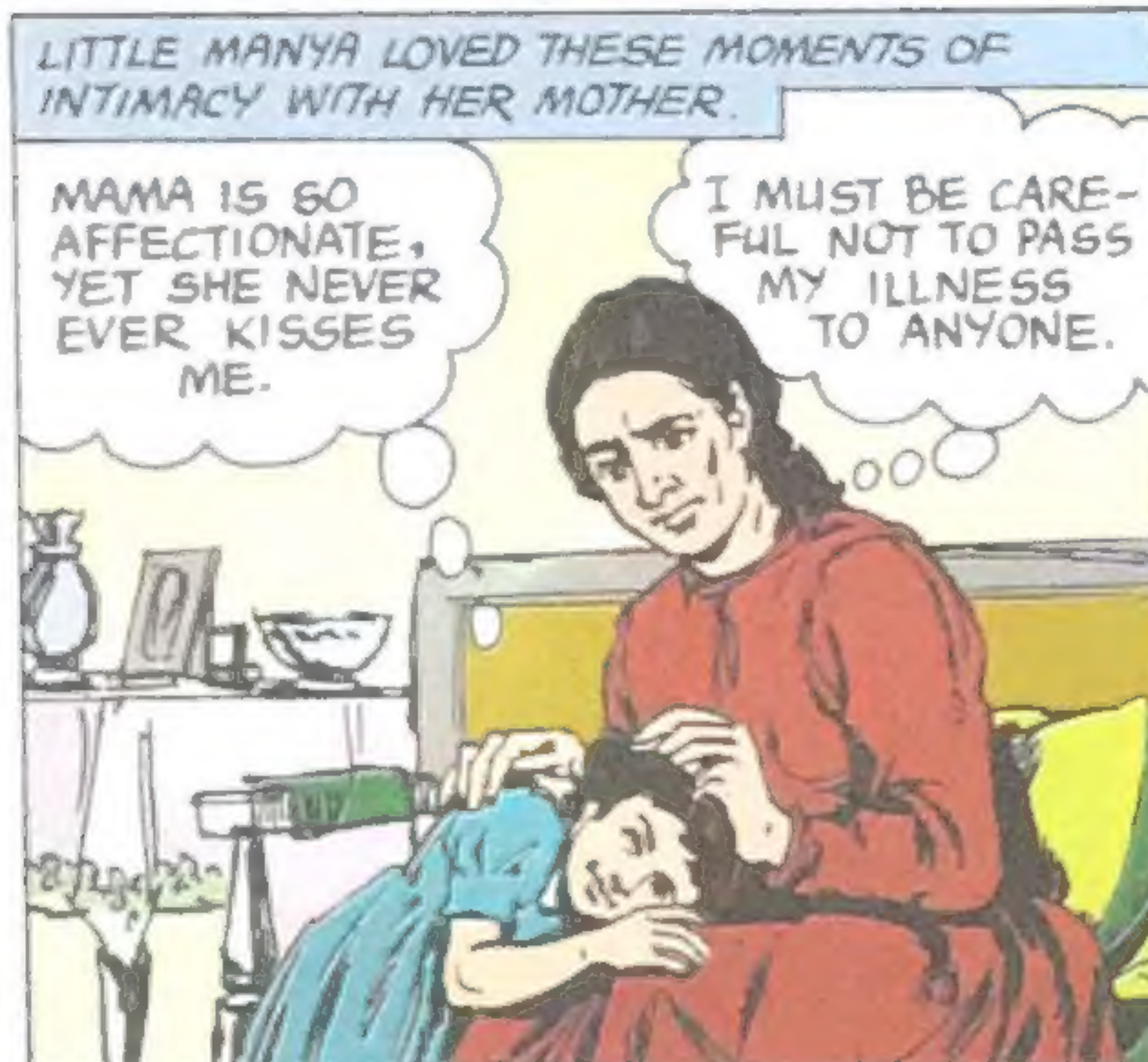


MANYA WAS THE PET NAME OF MARYA SKLODOVSKA WHO LATER GAINED FAME AS MARIE CURIE.

OH, MY MANYA. HOW RED YOU ARE, HOW ROUGH YOUR HAIR HAS BECOME!









TWO LONG RINGS AND TWO SHORT ONES ON THE BELL. IT WAS THEIR SECRET SIGNAL WARNING OF THE RUSSIAN INSPECTOR'S ARRIVAL.

HURRY! PUT AWAY YOUR POLISH BOOKS.



BY THE TIME THE RUSSIAN INSPECTOR OF THE SCHOOL ENTERED THE CLASSROOM THE SCENE HAD CHANGED.



QUICKLY THE GIRLS HID THE EVIDENCE OF THEIR SECRET LESSONS.



ACCEPTING A CHAIR OFFERED TO HIM, THE INSPECTOR SAT DOWN.

PLEASE CALL ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS.

MANYA, OF COURSE.



NOT ME. PLEASE GOD, NOT ME. LET HER CALL SOMEONE ELSE.



BUT SHE WAS CALLED, AS USUAL, BEING THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE AND FLUENT IN RUSSIAN, TO ANSWER THE INSPECTOR'S QUESTIONS.

WHO RULES OVER US?

HIS MAJESTY ALEXANDER II, TSAR OF ALL RUSSIA.



AFTER A LONG PAINFUL SESSION OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, THE INSPECTOR WAS SATISFIED.

WHAT AN ACCENT! SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN BORN IN RUSSIA.



AFTER HE HAD LEFT, THE TEACHER CALLED MANYA...

COME HERE, MY LITTLE SOUL!



... AND KISSED HER ON THE FOREHEAD.

TO FORGET HER ORDEAL AT THE SCHOOL, MANYA RUSHED HOME. SOON SHE WAS ABSORBED IN HER FAVOURITE PASSION.

LOOK AT MANYA.

LOST IN HER BOOKS. LET'S DISTRACT HER.



HER SISTERS BRONYA AND HELA QUIETLY PILED UP CHAIRS TO FORM A CASTLE OVER THE MOTIONLESS MANYA.



IT WAS ONLY HALF AN HOUR LATER WHEN SHE HAD COMPLETED A CHAPTER OF HER BOOK THAT SHE GOT UP.

HA HA!

CRASH!

HEE HEE!



BUT THIS POWER OF CONCENTRATION HELPED MANYA WIN A GOLD MEDAL AT THE PASSING-OUT EXAMINATION OF HER SECONDARY SCHOOL.





HER FATHER WAS DELIGHTED WITH HER SUCCESS. HER MOTHER HAD MEANWHILE DIED OF TUBERCULOSIS.



FOR THE FIRST AND THE LAST TIME IN HER LIFE, MANYA SPENT A WHOLE YEAR HOLIDAYING IN THE COUNTRY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE GEOGRAPHY OR ALGEBRA EVER EXISTED. I'VE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THEM.



IT WAS A HOLIDAY FULL OF GAIETY AND FUN, PLAYING LITTLE GAMES, COLLECTING GODSEBERRIES AND RIDING IN A SLEIGH IN THE MOONLIGHT.



FOR THE DANCES AND BALLS MANYA CONVERTED HER ORDINARY DRESS INTO A PARTY GOWN BY ADDING FLOWERS AND RIBBONS.

WELL, MY DRESS LOOKS FESTIVE ENOUGH FOR A PARTY AND I HAVE NEW SHOES AT LEAST.



ONCE, ON A FESTIVE OCCASION, SHE DANCED AND DANCED ALL NIGHT.



BY DAWN THE SOLES OF HER NEW SHOES HAD WORN OFF.

ON HER RETURN FROM THE WONDERFUL HOLIDAY MANYA HAD TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

I WOULD LIKE TO STUDY SCIENCE.

BRONYA TOO WANTS TO STUDY MEDICINE.



JOSEPH WAS STUDYING TO BECOME A DOCTOR BUT WARSAW OFFERED NO SCOPE FOR FURTHER STUDIES FOR WOMEN.

THE SORBONNE UNIVERSITY IN PARIS ALLOWS WOMEN TO STUDY SCIENCE AND MEDICINE.

OH! HOW I WISH I COULD AFFORD TO SEND YOU THERE.



HER FATHER HAD LOST ALL HIS SAVINGS IN A BAD INVESTMENT.

I HAVE RUINED ALL YOUR CHANCES. HOW COULD I HAVE LOST ALL THAT MONEY? WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU?



BUT JOSEPH, BRONYA, HELA AND MANYA WERE QUICK TO COMFORT HIM.

WE ARE YOUNG.

WE WILL SUCCEED.

WE ARE STRONG.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT US.



THEY PUT THEIR HEADS TOGETHER TO HELP THEIR FATHER.

WE MUST START EARNING

WE WILL GIVE LESSONS.



AT SEVENTEEN, MANYA BEGAN TO GIVE PRIVATE TUTORINGS.



WITH OTHER YOUNG STUDENTS MANYA SHARED THE SECRET DREAM OF A FREE POLAND.

WE MUST BUILD UP THE INTELLECTUAL LEVEL OF OUR PEOPLE.

YES, BUT HOW?





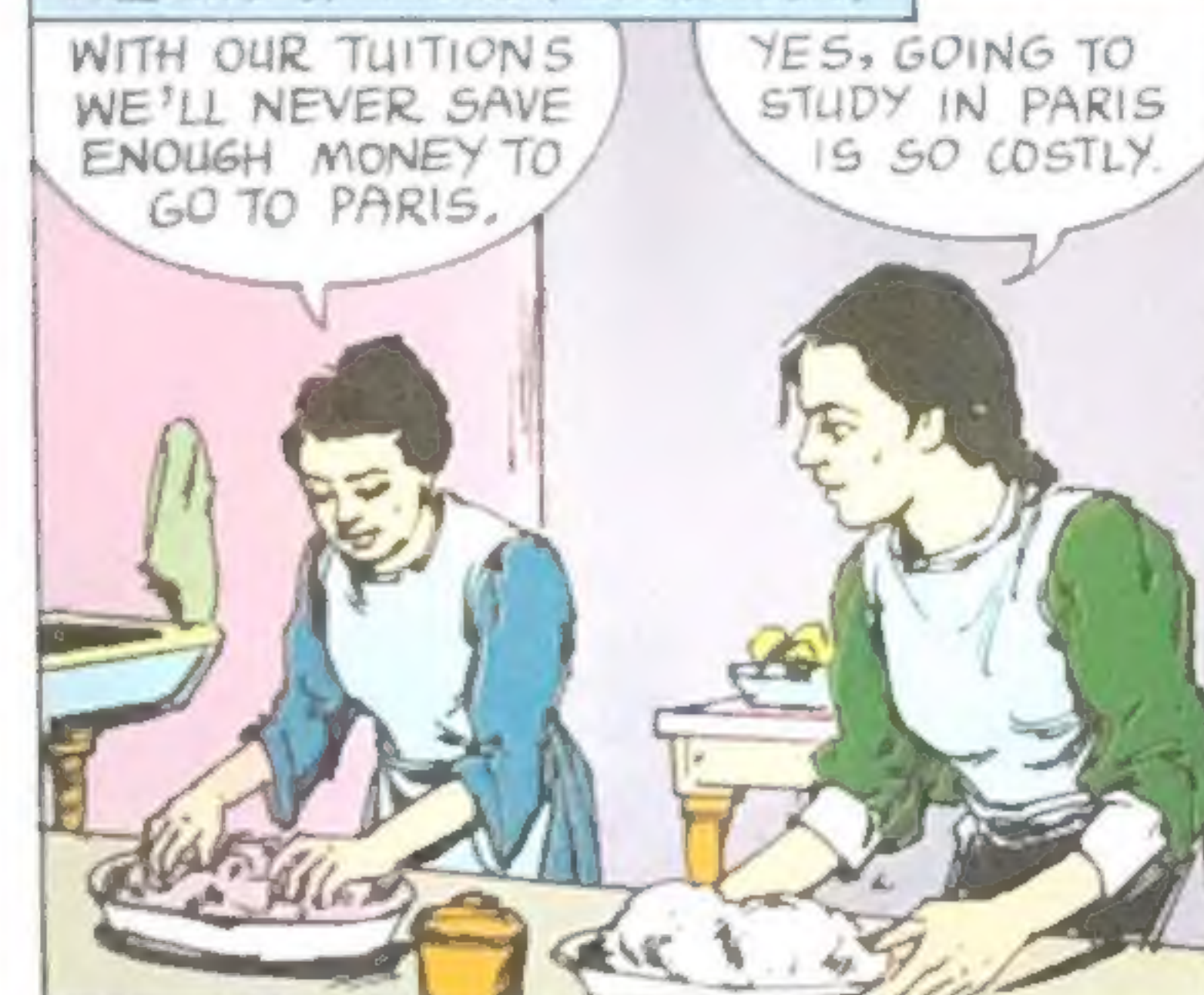
THE RUSSIANS, WHO RULED POLAND, DID NOT ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW IDEAS AND ADVANCED LEARNING. SO PATRIOTIC TEACHERS GAVE FREE LESSONS SECRETLY TO INTERESTED STUDENTS.



THE YOUNG STUDENTS IN TURN GAVE FREE LESSONS IN BASIC EDUCATION TO POOR PEOPLE WHO WERE NEGLECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT



BRONYA AND MANYA HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THEIR DREAMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.



BRONYA HAD TAKEN OVER THE CARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD EVER SINCE THEIR MOTHER'S DEATH. MANYA FELT SORRY FOR HER ELDER SISTER.



ONE DAY—



LET'S SEE. WITH WHAT YOU'VE SAVED, HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN PARIS?



THE MEDICAL COURSE WHICH BRONYA WANTED TO DO WAS OF FIVE YEARS' DURATION



I HAVE A PLAN BY WHICH YOU CAN BE IN PARIS THIS AUTUMN



LISTEN, YOU START WITH YOUR MONEY. I WILL SEND YOU MONEY BY TAKING UP A JOB.



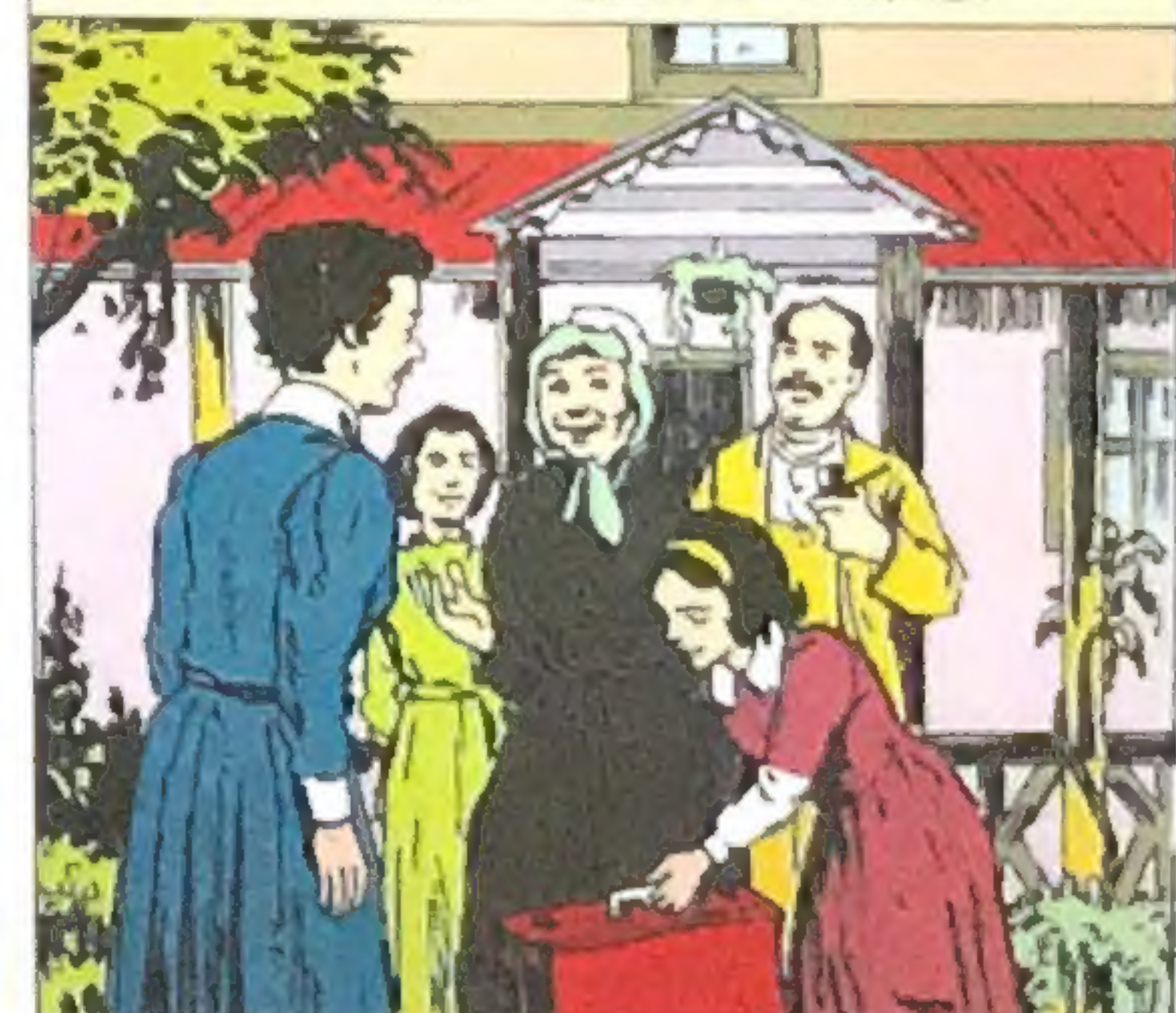
BUT MANYA HAD MADE UP HER MIND.



ON JANUARY 1, 1886, AT THE AGE OF 18, MANYA LEFT WARSAW TO TAKE UP A JOB AS A GOVERNESS IN THE COUNTRY.



AFTER A LONG JOURNEY, SHE WAS RECEIVED WITH HOT TEA AND FRIENDLY WORDS.





SHE HAD A BUSY TIME TEACHING HER TWO STUDENTS FOR SEVEN HOURS EVERY DAY.



MANYA REMEMBERED HER RESOLVE TO EDUCATE THE POOR AND GAVE SECRET LESSONS IN POLISH TO VILLAGE CHILDREN.



FOR CONTINUING HER OWN EDUCATION, SHE BORROWED BOOKS FROM THE LOCAL LIBRARY WHICH SHE READ TILL LATE AT NIGHT.



WHEN CASIMIR, THE ELDEST SON OF HER EMPLOYERS, CAME HOME FOR HIS HOLIDAY, HE WAS DAZZLED BY THE NEW GOVERNESS.



MANYA TOO HAD BECOME ENAMOURD OF THE HANDSOME COLLEGE STUDENT. THEY FELL IN LOVE AND PLANNED TO MARRY.



BUT HIS PARENTS WHO HAD TREATED HER SO WELL AS GOVERNESS REFUSED TO ACCEPT HER AS A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.



AFRAID OF DISPLEASING HIS PARENTS, CASIMIR BROKE OFF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH MANYA.



FOR THREE YEARS SHE CONTINUED WORKING AS A GOVERNESS, SENDING MONEY TO BRONYA IN PARIS AND SAVING A LITTLE FOR HERSELF.



IT WAS A HARD LIFE WITH FEW PLEASURES. BUT SOON THERE WAS GOOD NEWS.



BRONYA MEANWHILE PASSED HER EXAM AND WAS TO MARRY A POLISH CLASSMATE, CASIMIR DLUSKI.



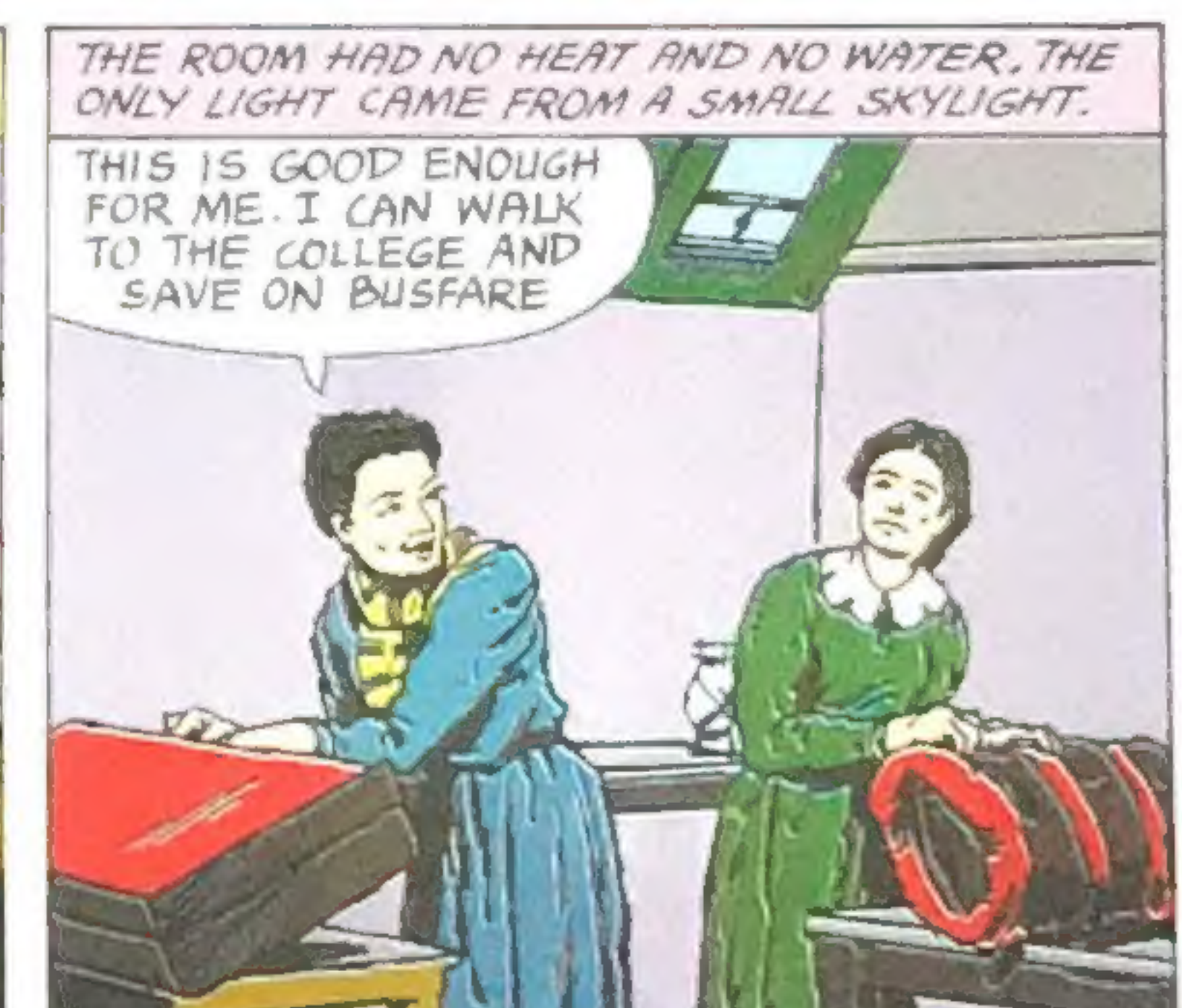
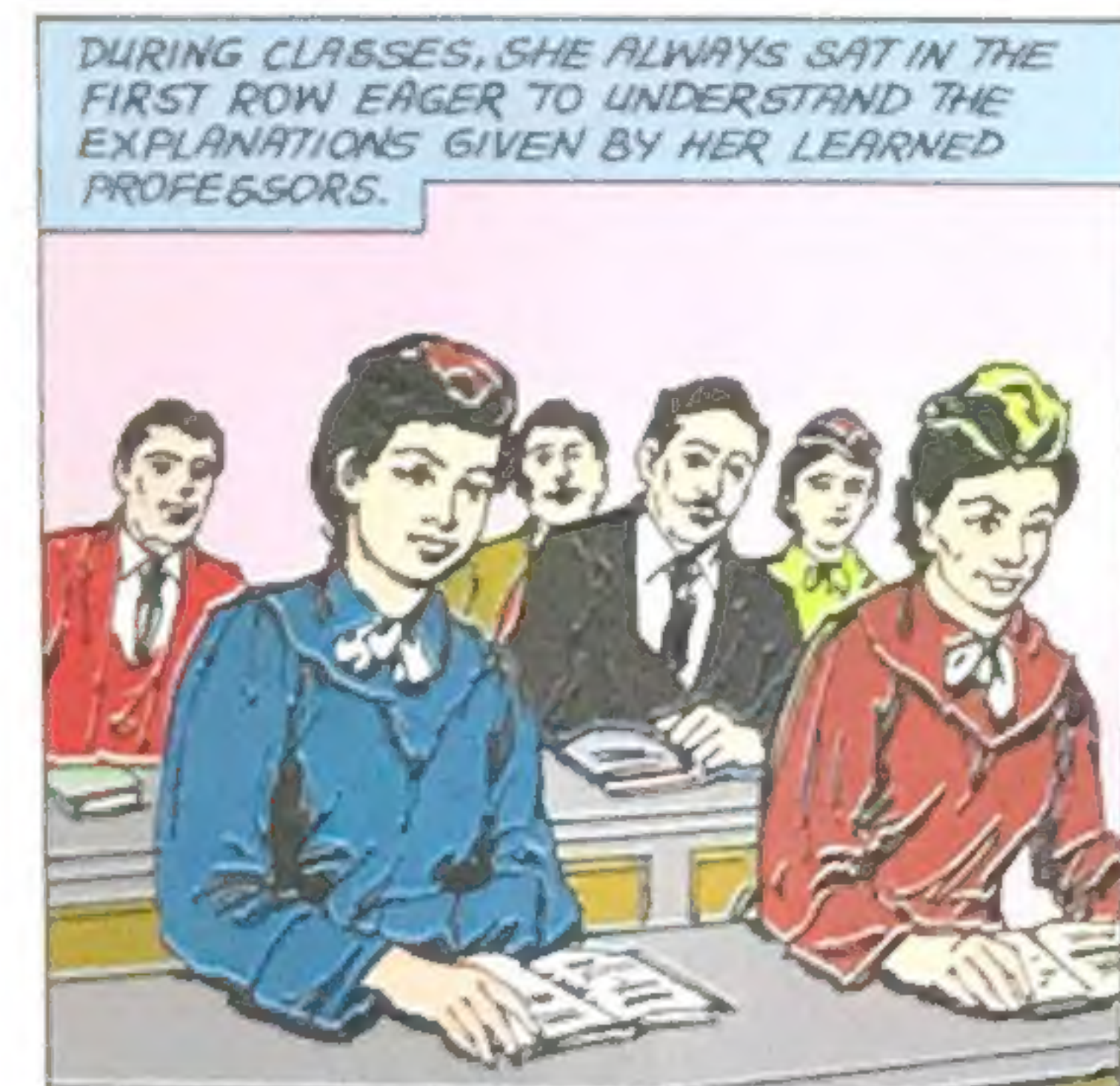
AFTER HER MARRIAGE BRONYA SET OUT TO COMPLETE HER PART OF THE BARGAIN.



IN 1891, AT THE AGE OF TWENTY-THREE, MANYA SET OUT TO FULFIL HER AMBITION.









FOR OVER THREE YEARS SHE LIVED A HERMIT'S LIFE, DEVOTED TO STUDY ALONE. TILL TWO O'CLOCK AT NIGHT SHE WOULD SIT WITH HER BOOKS.

I MUST POLISH UP MY FRENCH TO PERFECTION. BESIDES MY KNOWLEDGE OF MATHS AND PHYSICS IS NOT GOOD COMPARED TO THAT OF MY FRENCH CLASSMATES.

ON THIS POOR DIET AND LONG HOURS OF WORK, MARIE SOON BECAME WEAK AND ANAEMIC.

MY HEAD SWIMS EVERY TIME I GET UP FROM THE TABLE. BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SICK.

ONE DAY MARIE FAINTED IN FRONT OF HER CLASSMATE WHO PROMPTLY GAVE THE NEWS TO BRONYA.

SOMETHING IS THE MATTER WITH MARIE. BOTH OF YOU ARE DOCTORS. YOU'D BETTER HAVE A CHECK-UP FOR HER.

SOON CASIMIR, BRONYA'S HUSBAND, CAME TO MARIE'S LITTLE ATTIC.

HE LOOKED AROUND CAREFULLY BUT COULD NOT FIND ANYTHING TO EAT. HE UNDERSTOOD AT ONCE.

WHAT DID YOU EAT TODAY?

OH, ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

CASIMIR REPEATED THE QUESTION WITH HIS VOICE RAISED AND SOON FOUND OUT THE TRUTH.

SO ALL YOU'VE EATEN SINCE YESTERDAY IS A BUNDLE OF RADISHES AND SOME CHERRIES AND SLEPT ONLY FOR FOUR HOURS.

CASIMIR FELT VERY UNHAPPY FOR NEGLECTING HIS SISTER-IN-LAW.

COLLECT YOUR THINGS AND COME WITH ME.

OH! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT HERE.

HE PREVAILED UPON HER TO GO WITH HIM TO HIS HOUSE WHERE HE ORDERED BRONYA TO RUSH TO THE KITCHEN SOON—

HOW CAN I EAT SO MUCH?

THE DOCTOR'S ORDERS! THESE ARE YOUR MEDICINES.

FOR SEVERAL DAYS SHE STAYED WITH BRONYA WHO FED HER WELL AND LOOKED AFTER HER TENDERLY.

BRONYA! LET ME GO BACK TO MY ROOM. MY EXAMS ARE APPROACHING.

ONLY IF YOU PROMISE TO BEHAVE IN FUTURE.

MARIE WAS BACK IN HER ROOM AND WAS SOON DEEPLY ABSORBED IN HER STUDIES. SHE HAD DECIDED TO DO HER MASTER'S DEGREE NOT ONLY IN PHYSICS BUT IN MATHEMATICS ALSO.

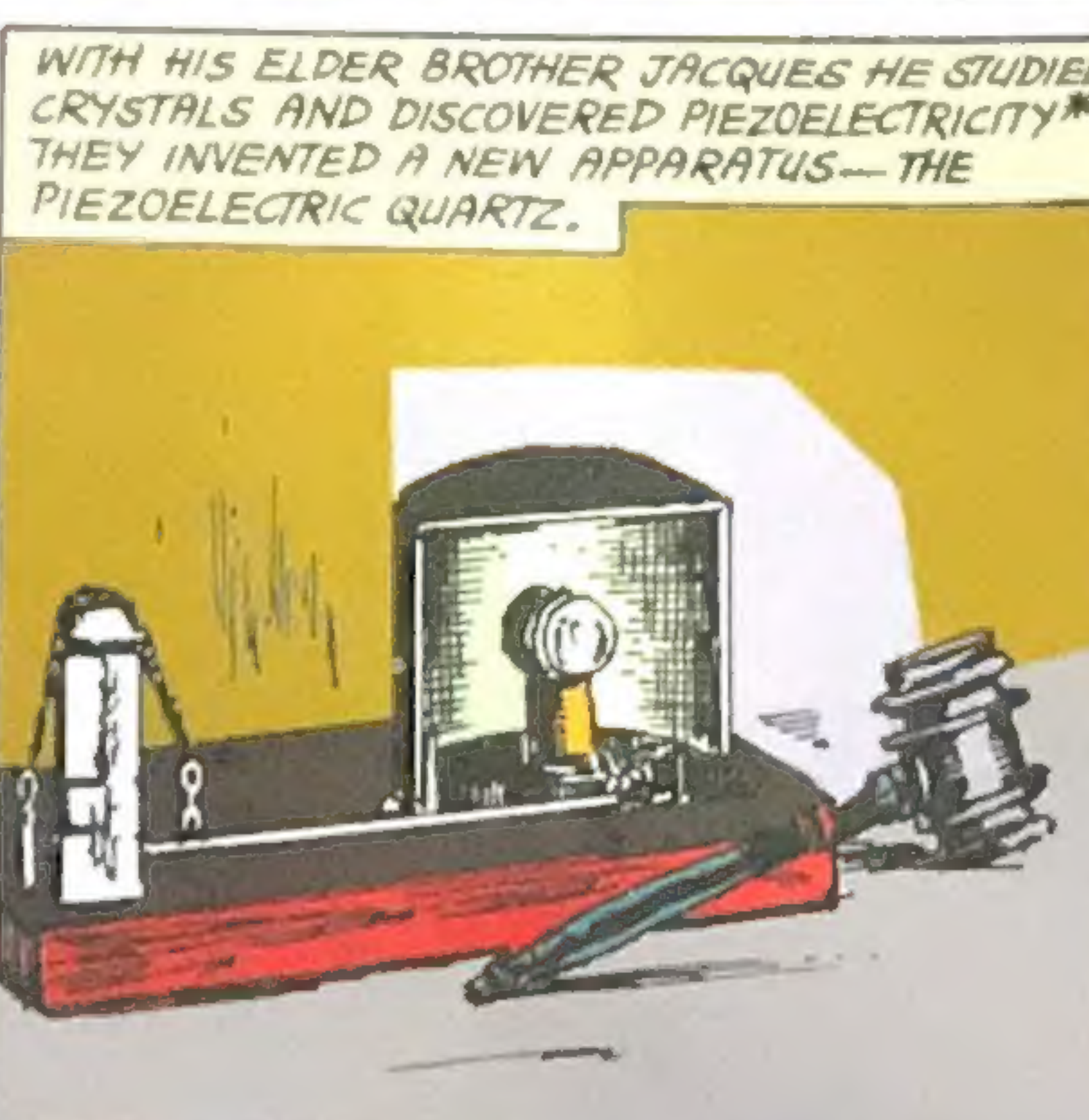
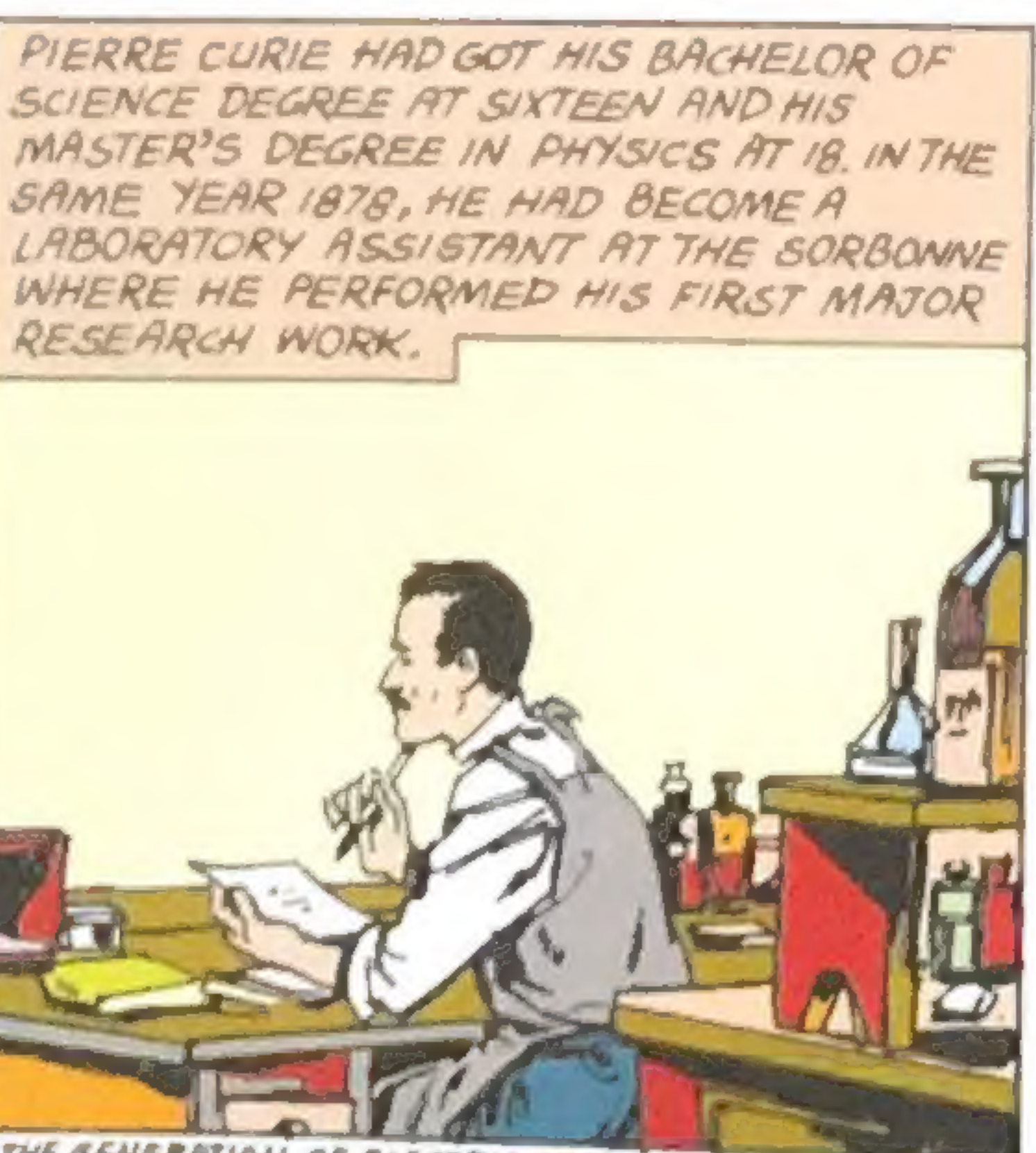
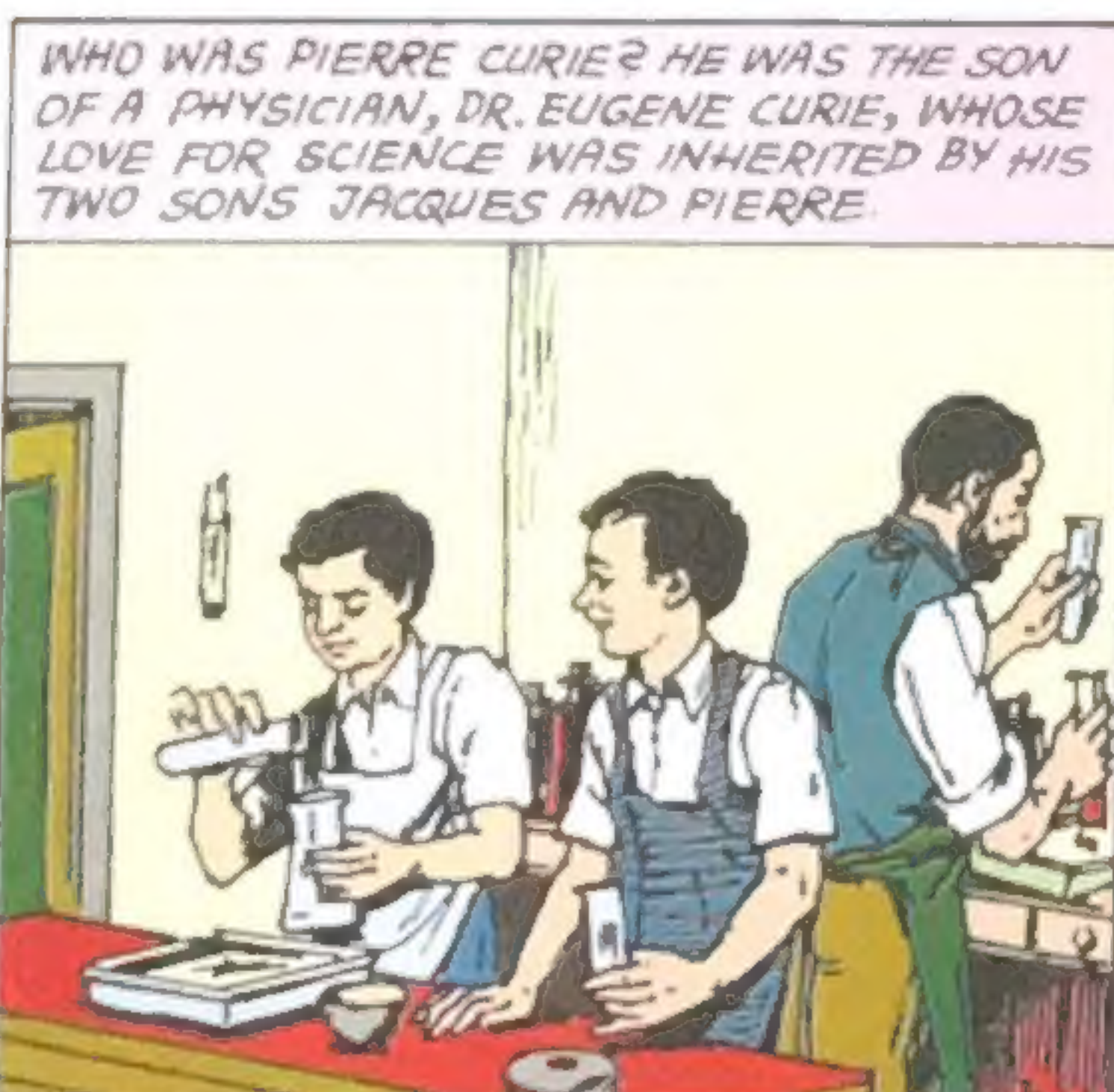
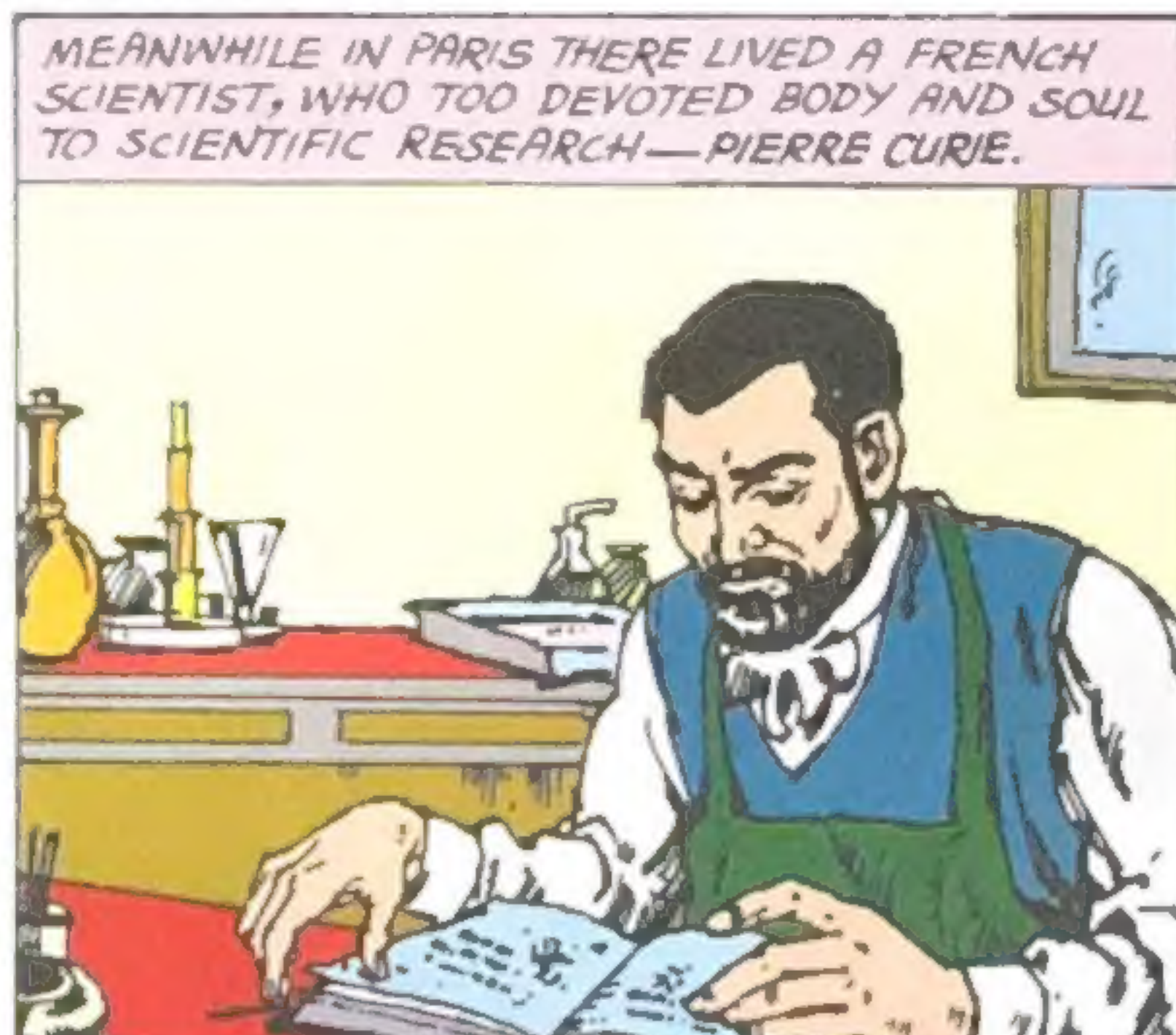
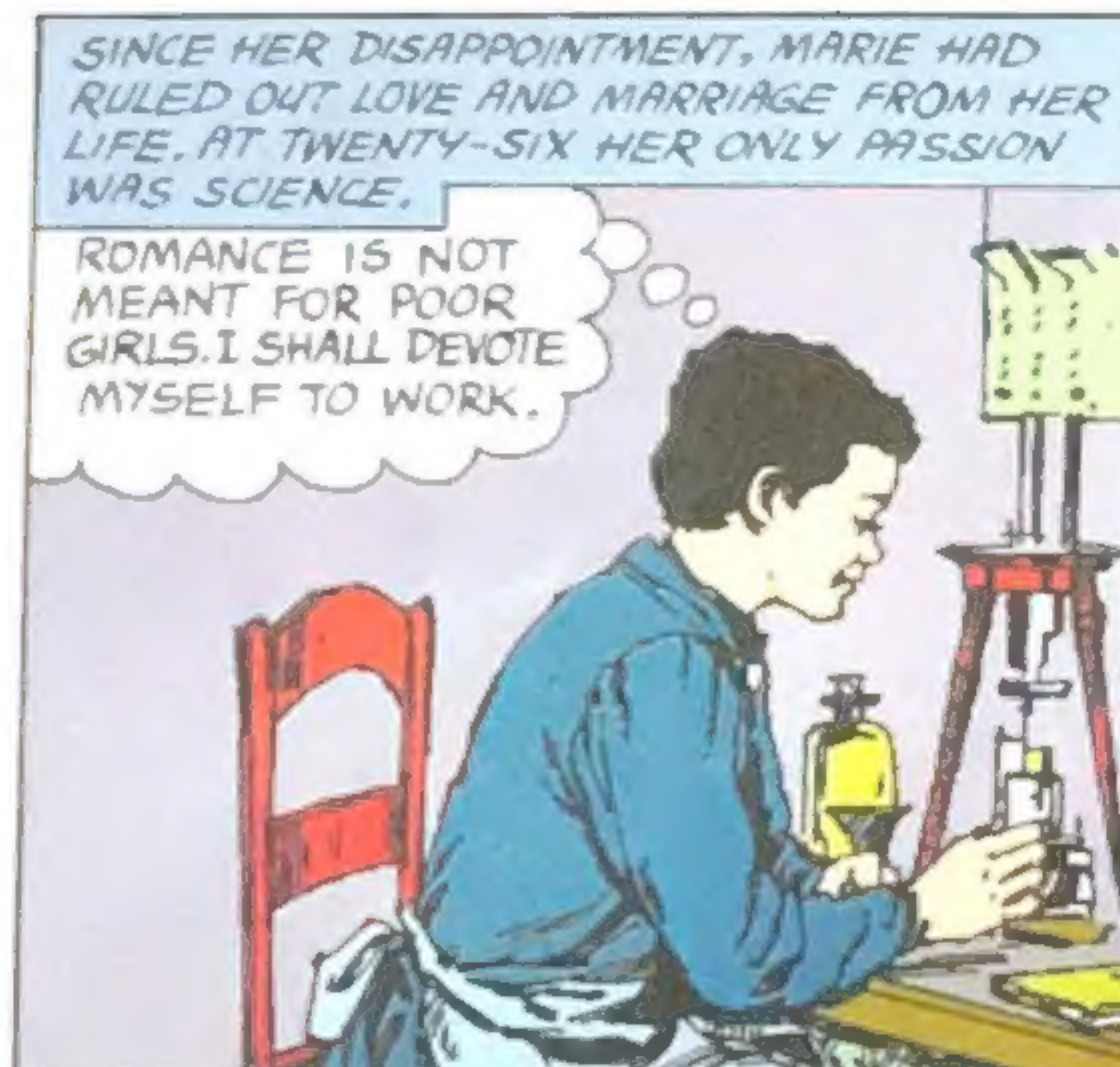
EAGER TO MAKE UP FOR LONG YEARS OF SOLITARY STUDY, SHE ATTENDED ALL POSSIBLE COURSES. IN JULY, 1893, SHE APPEARED FOR HER MASTER'S DEGREE EXAMINATION IN PHYSICS. AS WAS THE CUSTOM, THE RESULTS WERE ANNOUNCED IN THE ORDER OF MERIT. THE FIRST NAME WAS—

MARIE SKLODOVSKA!

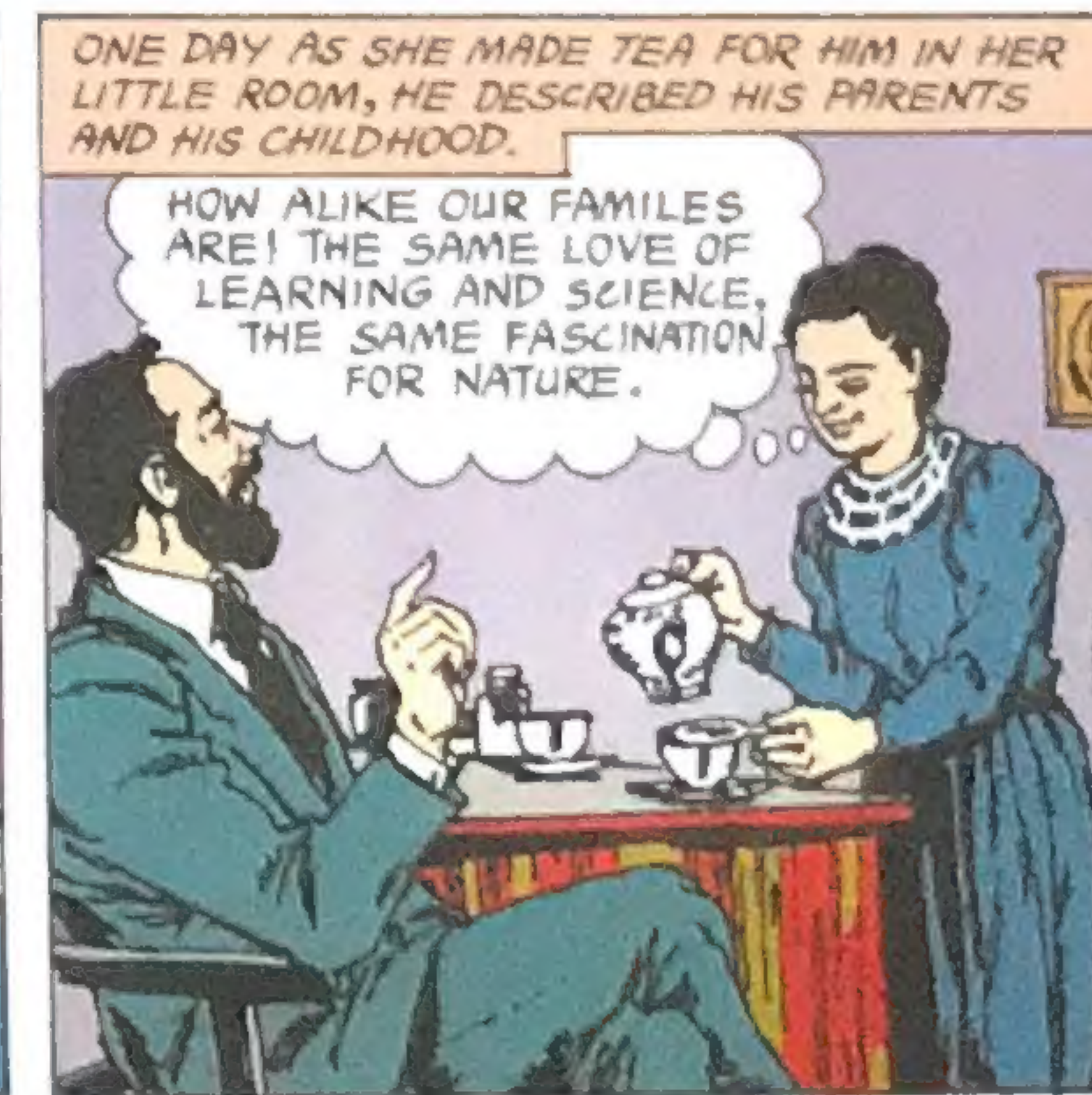
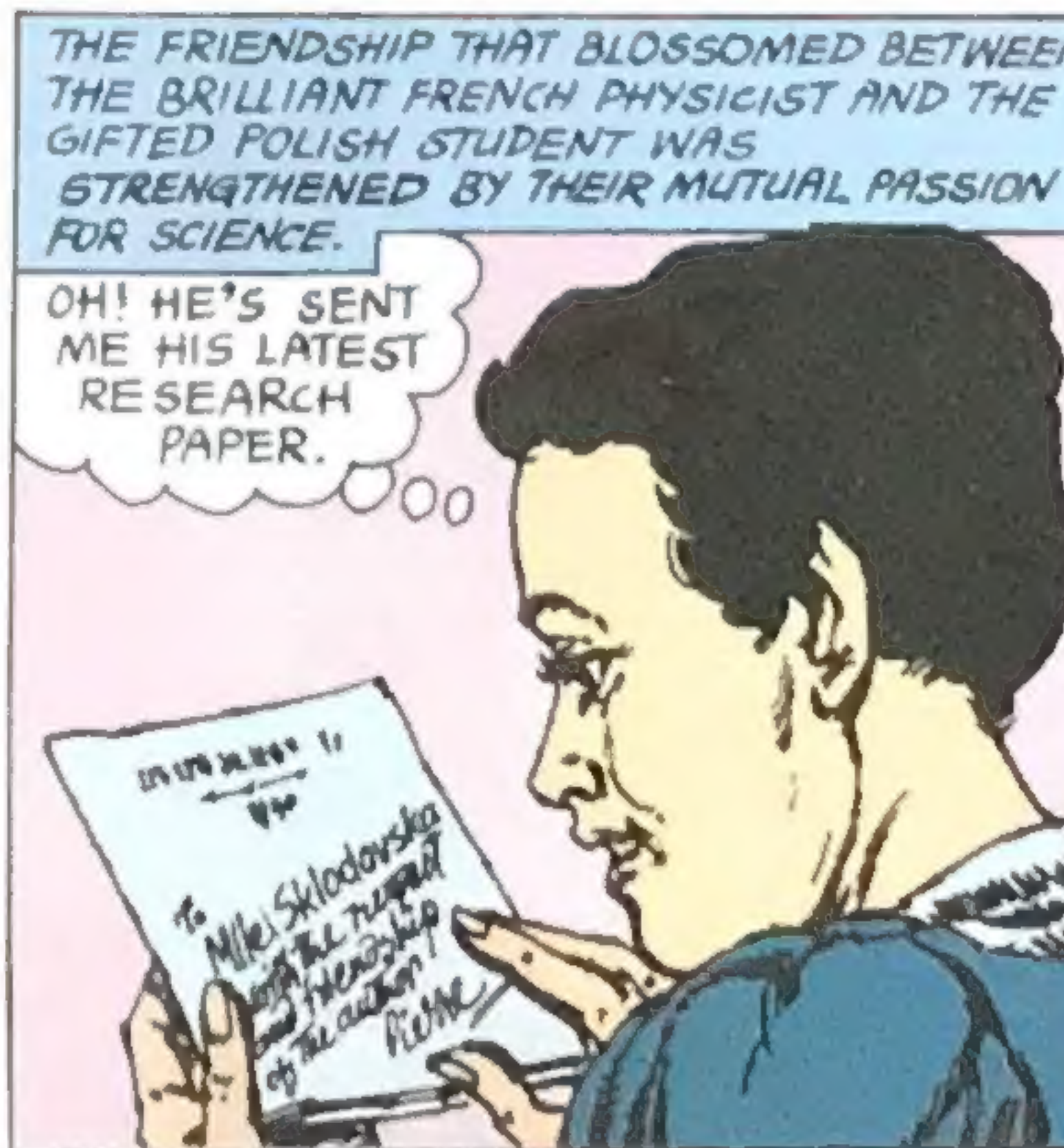
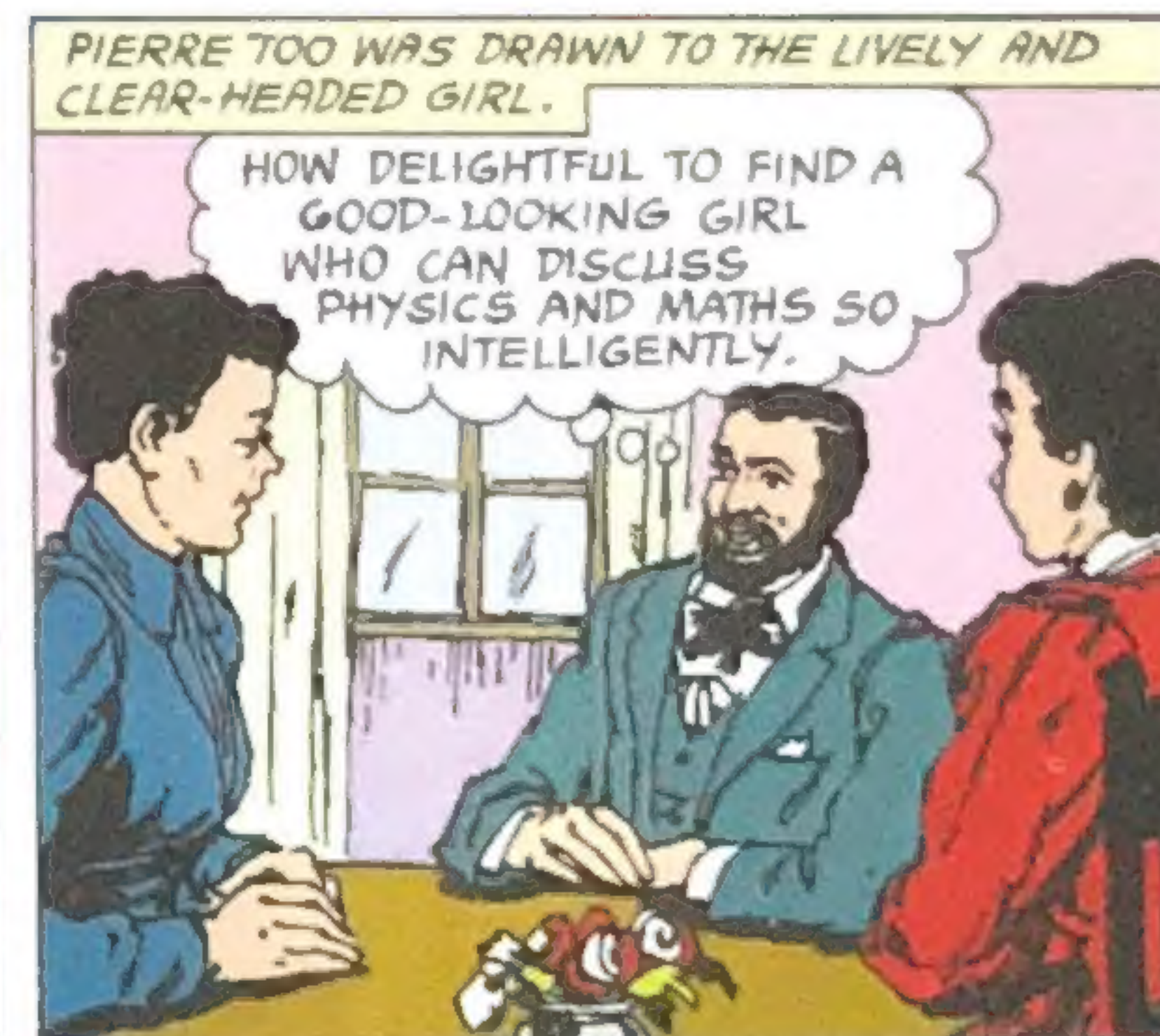
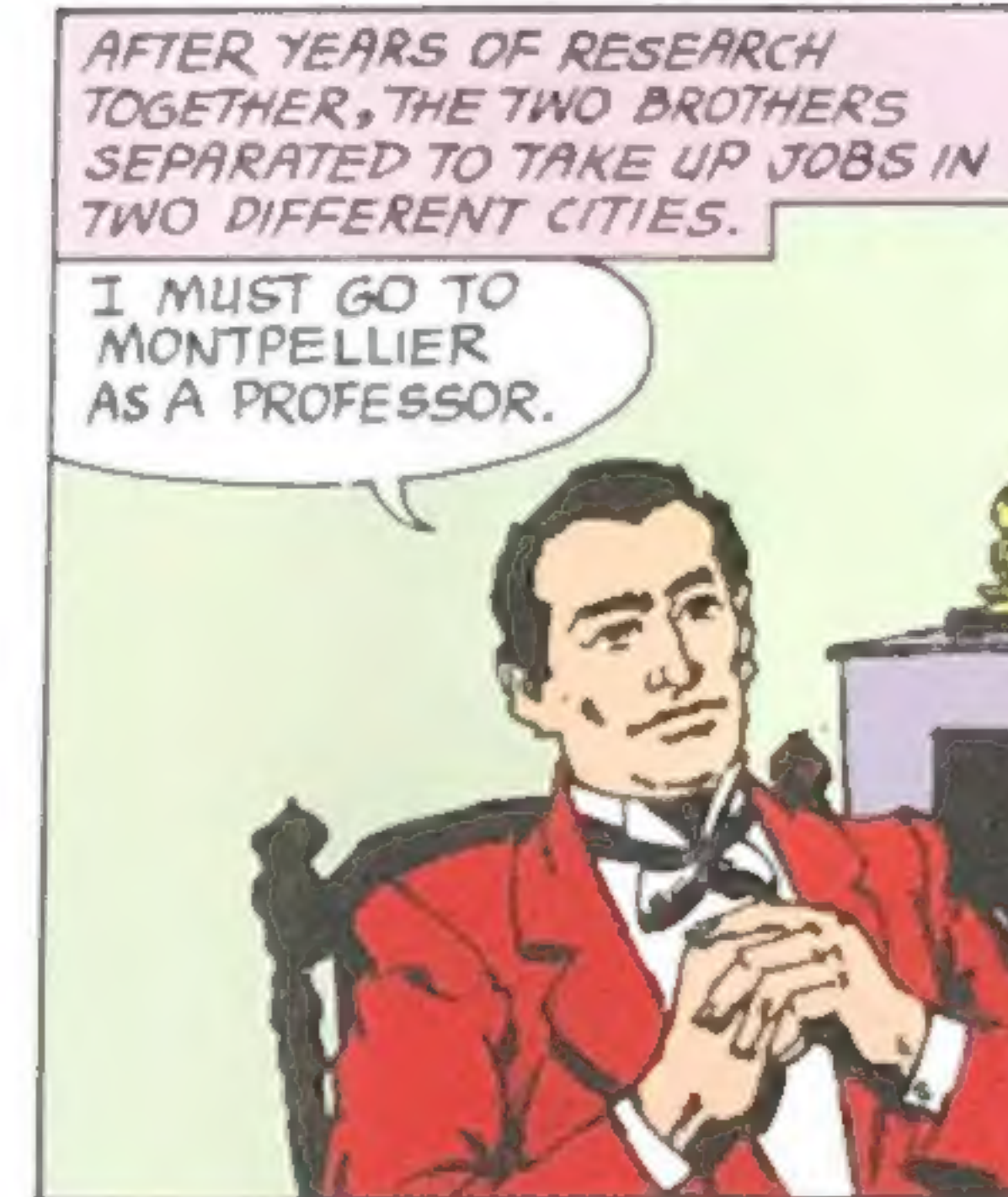
AFTER A SHORT HOLIDAY IN POLAND WHERE SHE REGAINED HER HEALTH, SHE RETURNED TO PARIS TO STUDY FOR HER SECOND MASTER'S DEGREE. THESE WERE THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF HER LIFE BUT NOT THE MOST COMFORTABLE.

BRR! IT'S SO COLD. I FEEL SO CHILLY THOUGH I'VE PUT ON ALL THE CLOTHES I POSSESS. I'LL PULL THIS CHAIR OVER ME. IT MIGHT PROVIDE SOME COMFORT.

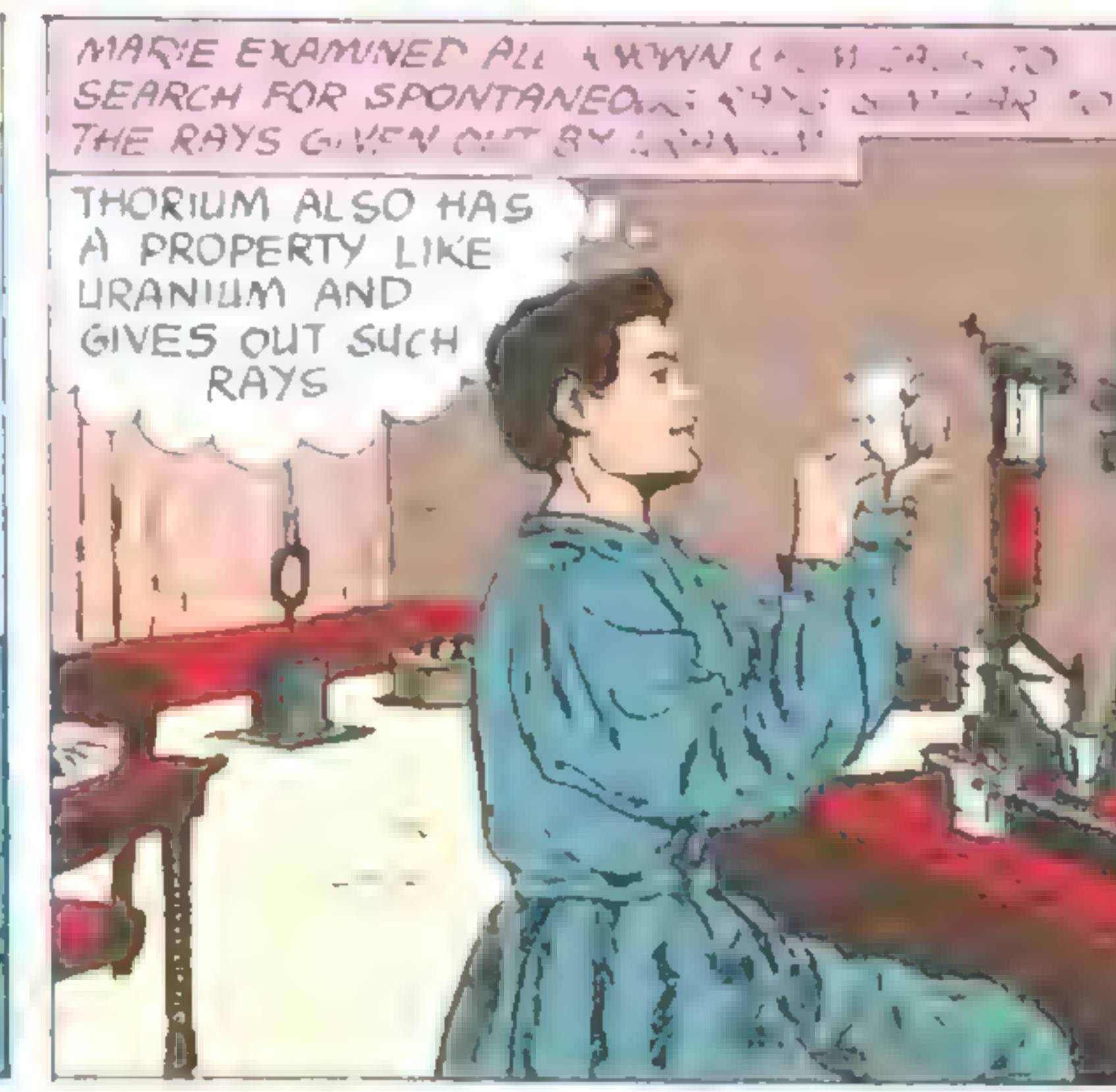
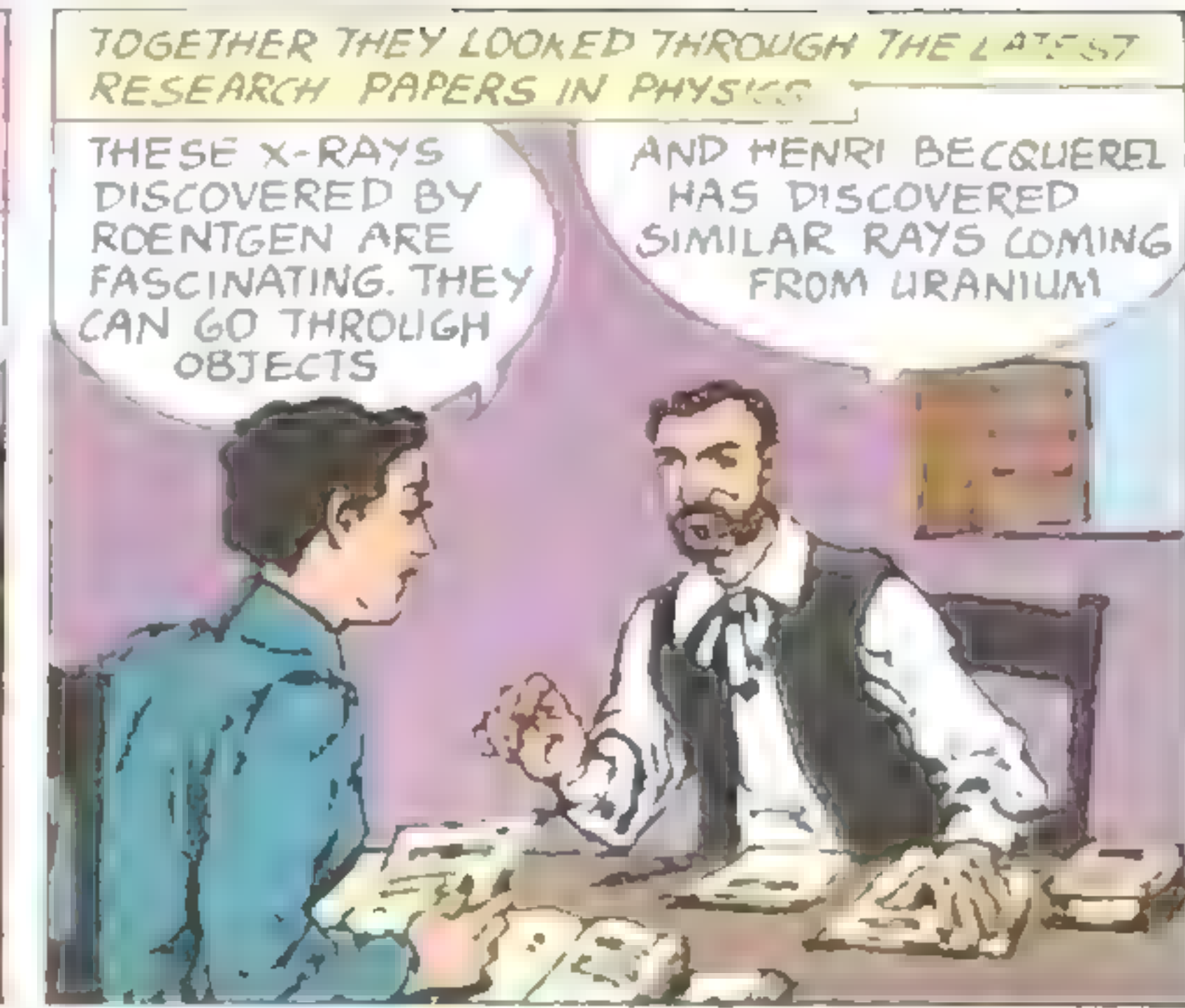
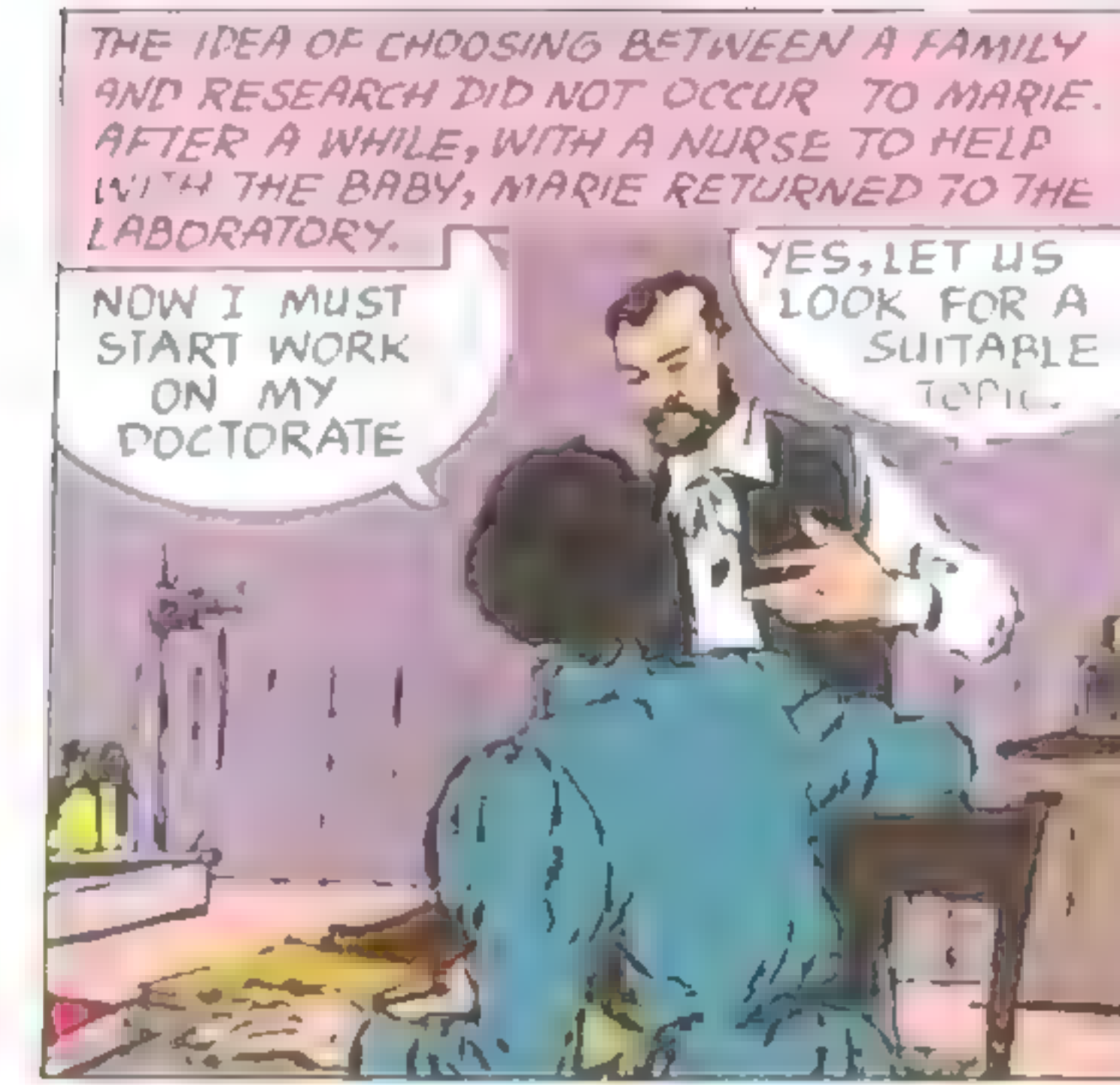
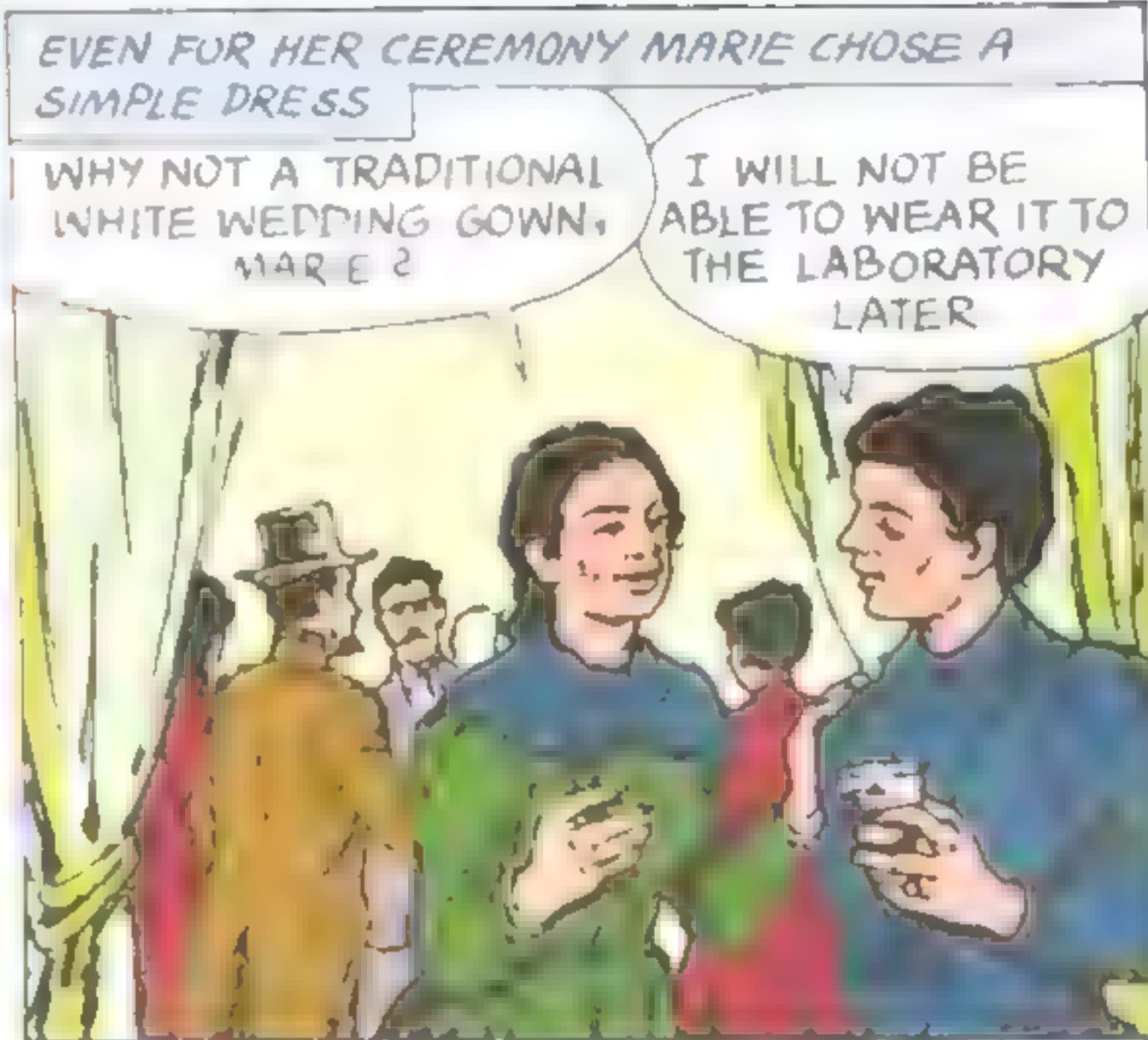




\* THE GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY BY PRESSURE.









ONE DAY WHILE STUDYING PITCHBLLENDE FROM WHICH URANIUM HAD BEEN EXTRACTED—

WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES PITCH-BLENDE EMIT RAYS?

PERHAPS IT IS AN UNKNOWN SUBSTANCE

PIERRE NOW JOINED IN HER SEARCH THEY WORKED PATIENTLY WITH THE HARD PITCH-BLENDE. USING SOME OF THE APPARATUS INVENTED EARLIER BY PIERRE IN 1898, THEY SUCCEEDED IN FINDING NOT ONE BUT TWO ELEMENTS.

WE WILL CALL ONE POLONIUM AFTER MY BELOVED POLAND

AND THE OTHER RADIUM.

WHILE MAKING THESE STARTLING DISCOVERIES IN THE LABORATORY, THE YOUNG HOUSEWIFE WAS EQUALLY SYSTEMATIC ABOUT HER DOMESTIC CHORES

I TOOK EIGHT POUNDS OF FRUIT AND SUGAR AND OBTAINED FOURTEEN POTS OF VERY GOOD JAM

MEANWHILE, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD DETECTED THE PRESENCE OF RADIUM IN PITCHBLENDE, THEY HAD NOT ISOLATED IT IN ITS PURE FORM

I WONDER WHAT PURE RADIUM WILL LOOK LIKE?

I'M SURE IT WILL HAVE A LOVELY COLOUR.

BUT FOR THIS THEY REQUIRED A LARGE QUANTITY OF PITCHBLENDE.

RADIUM IS ABOUT A MILLIONTH PART OF PITCH-BLENDE.

YES, WE'LL NEED TONS AND TONS OF ORE TO GET PURE RADIUM.

THEY DUG INTO THEIR SAVINGS TO PAY FOR THE TRANSPORT OF THE ORE FROM THE MINES IN BOHEMIA IN GERMANY. THEIR EXCITEMENT ON DELIVERY OF THEIR PRECIOUS LARGO WAS UNBELIEVABLE.

AREN'T WE LUCKY? THE OWNER OF THE MINE GAVE US THE ORE FREE.

HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT US MAD TO WANT THE LEFT-OVER ORE AFTER THE URANIUM HAD BEEN EXTRACTED.

FOR FOUR LONG YEARS THEY WORKED IN THE SHED. IN 1902, SHE SUCCEEDED IN PREPARING A TINY QUANTITY OF PURE RADIUM ONE NIGHT AFTER PUTTING THEM TO BED—

MARIE, IS SOMETHING WEIGHING ON YOUR MIND?

LET'S GO TO THE SHED. I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING

ARM IN ARM, THEY STEPPED OUT TO THEIR DILAPIDATED SHED

WAIT! DON'T PUT ON THE LAMP, PIERRE

LOOK! SOMETHING IS GLOWING IN THE DARK!

THERE IN THE DARKNESS, THEY GAZED AT THE MYSTERIOUS GLOW OF PURE RADIUM. IT WAS A MAGICAL MOMENT THEY SHARED AND TREASURED FOREVER

IN 1900, MARIE WAS APPOINTED A LECTURER IN PHYSICS AT A SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

MADAME CURIE'S CLASSES ARE SUCH FUN.

YES, SHE EXPLAINS EVERYTHING WITH REAL EXPERIMENTS.

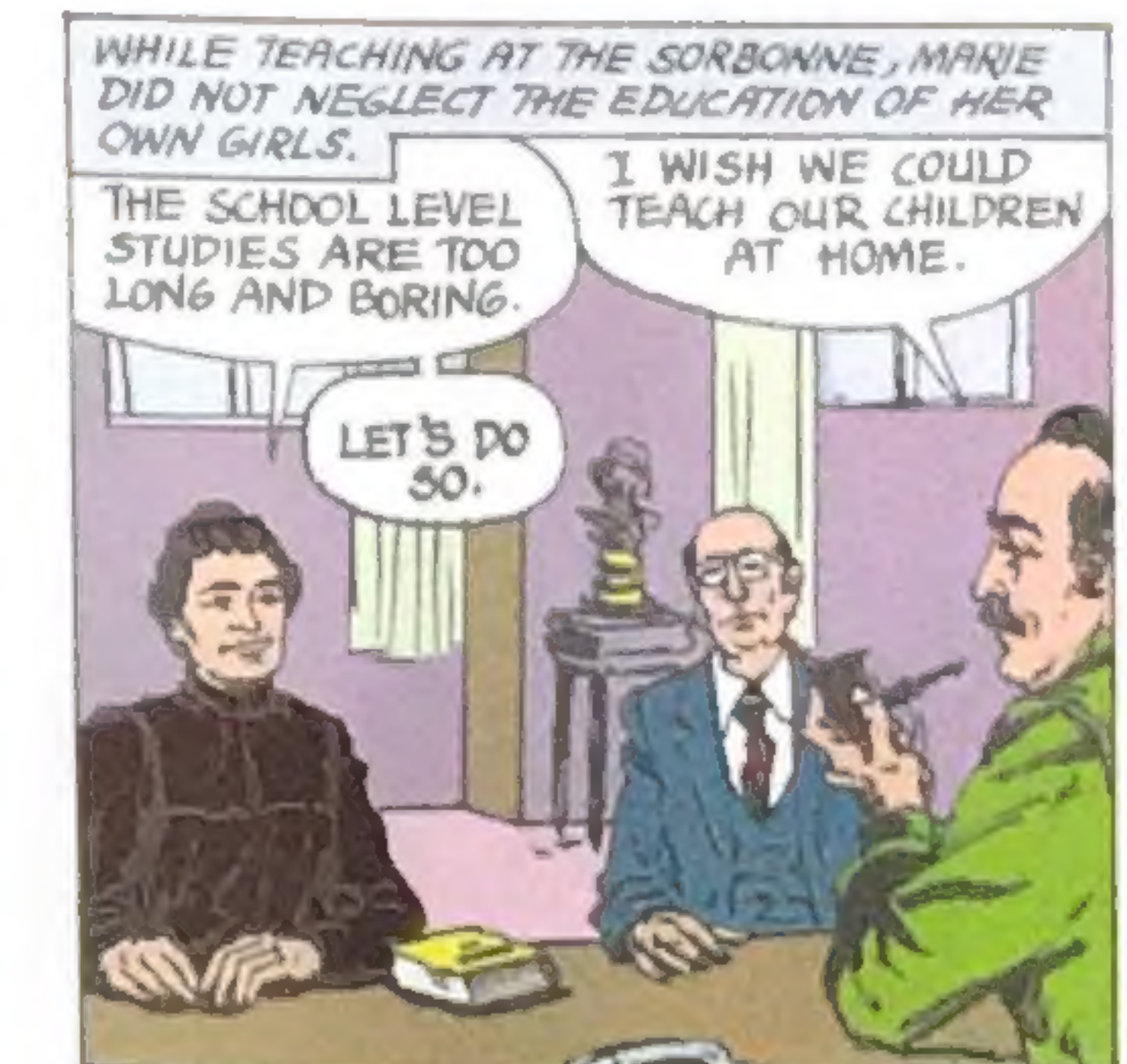
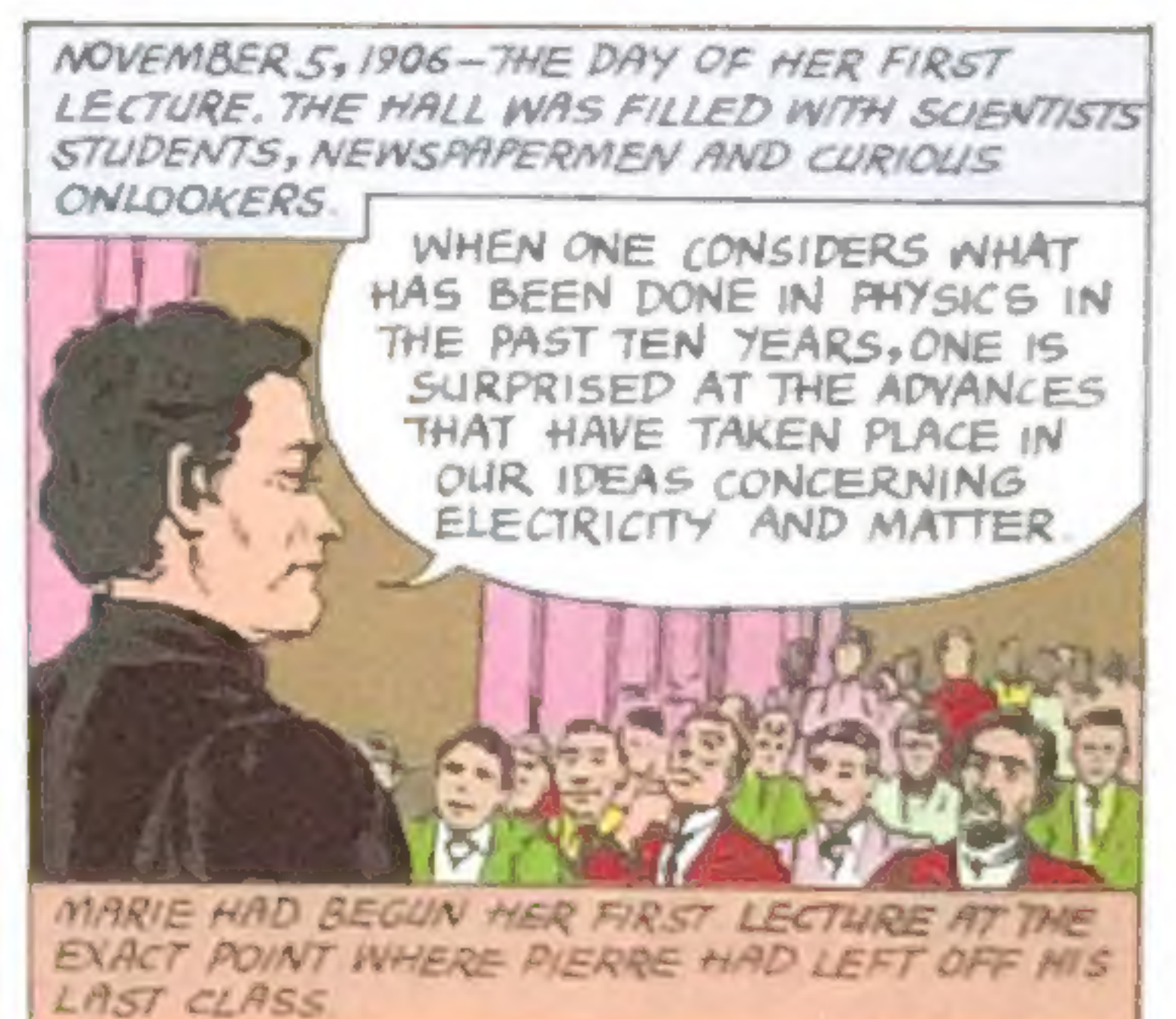
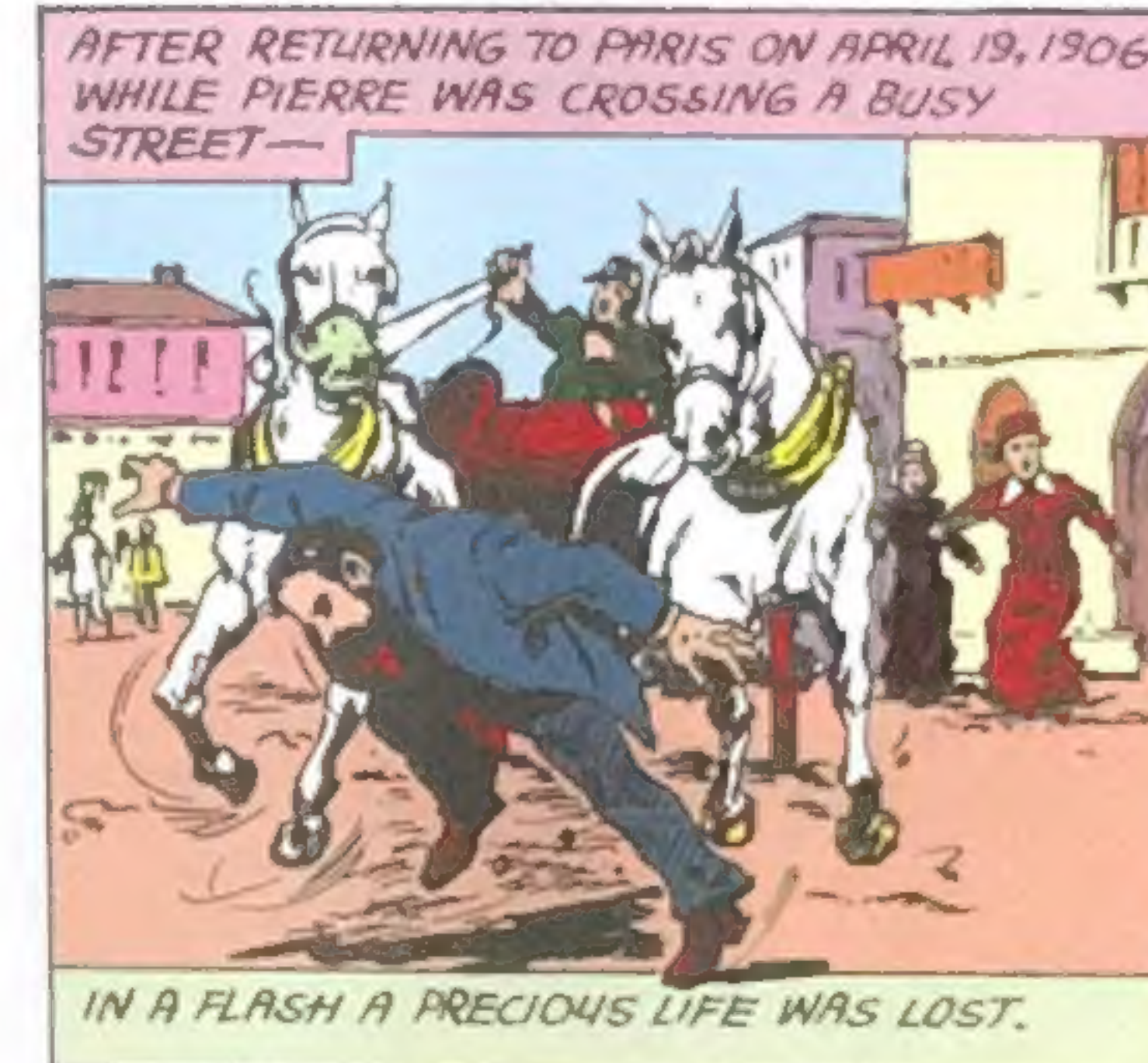
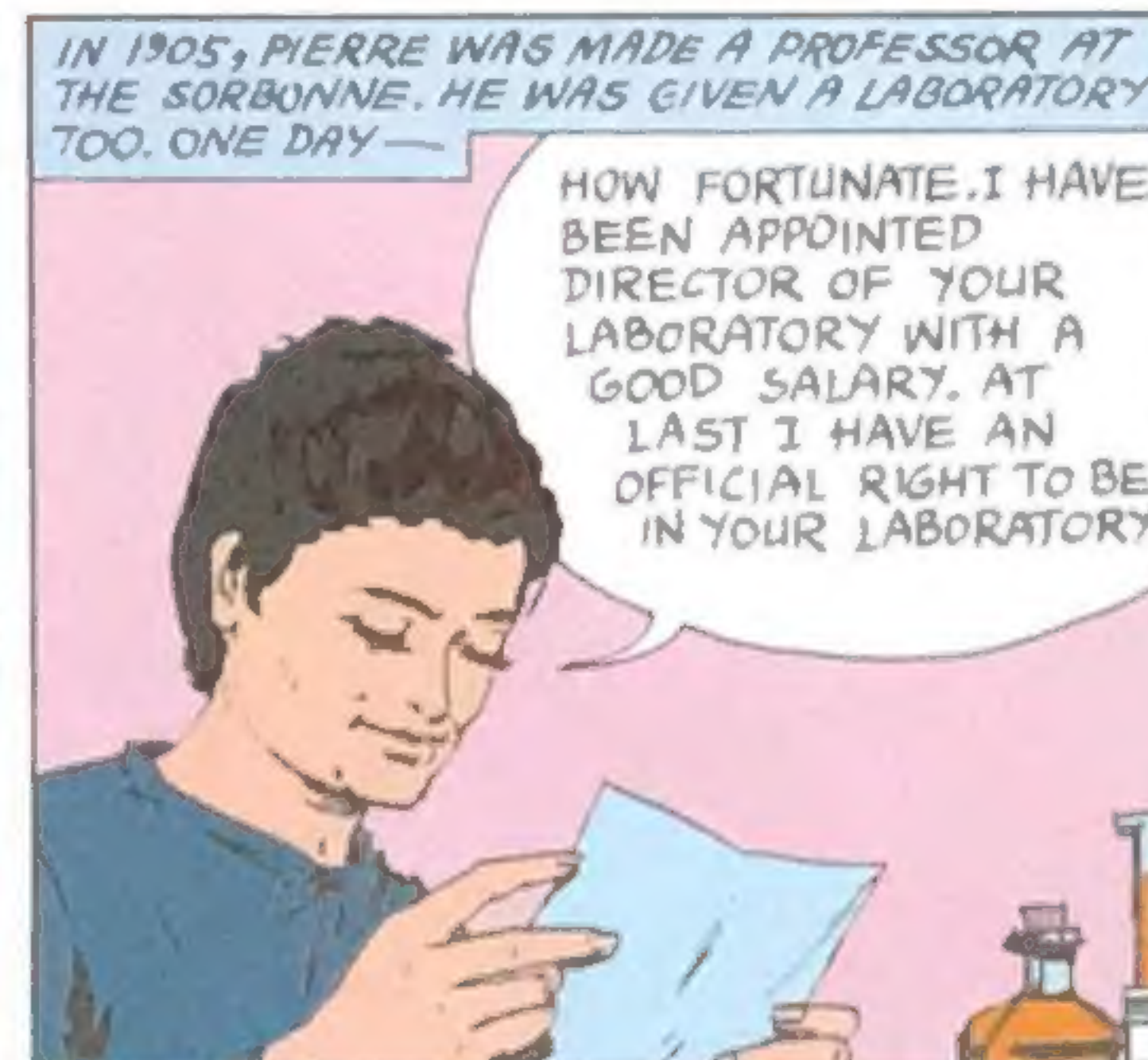
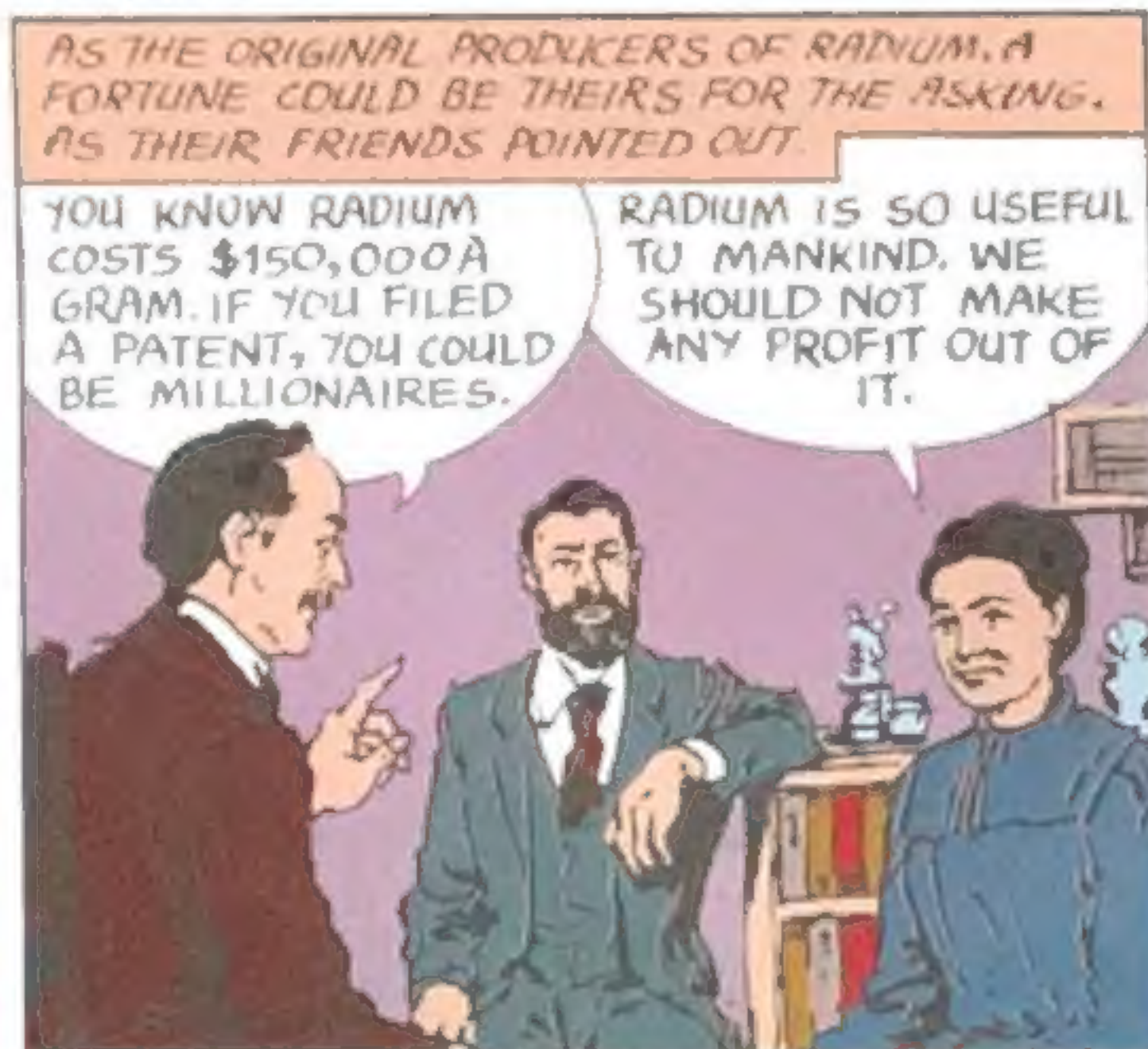
BY NOW THE MANY PRACTICAL USES OF RADIUM IN MEDICINE HAD BEEN FOUND. IN 1903 MARIE AND PIERRE CURIE WERE AWARDED THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS ALONG WITH HENRI BECQUEREL

NEW

NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS

BUT NEITHER MARIE NOR PIERRE WAS WELL ENOUGH TO ATTEND THE FUNCTION IN STOCKHOLM IN DECEMBER 1903, MARIE CURIE BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN SCIENTIST OF THE WORLD TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL FAME.







EACH PROFESSOR TOOK CLASSES IN HIS OWN SUBJECT. MARIE TAUGHT PHYSICS.

NO BOOKS! WE SHALL MAKE OUR OWN APPARATUS AND LEARN WITH THE HELP OF EXPERIMENTS.



BESIDES TEACHING THE LAWS OF PHYSICS, SHE TAUGHT THEM TO USE THE COMMON SENSE APPROACH.

NOW WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO KEEP THE LIQUID IN THIS POT HOT?

HMM... WRAP IT IN WOOL?

USE A SAND BATH?



MARIE LAUGHED AS SHE HEARD THEIR GRAND SUGGESTIONS.

WELL, IF I WERE YOU, I'D SIMPLY PUT THE LID ON.

HA! HA!



HER WEEKLY THURSDAY AFTERNOON LECTURES WERE INFORMAL. THEY ALWAYS ENDED ON A SWEET NOTE WHEN A MAID BROUGHT IN ROLLS, CHOCOLATES AND FRUIT.

YUMMY, TEA TIME!



BESIDES THESE UNUSUAL CLASSES WHICH LASTED TWO YEARS, IRENE AND EVE LEARNED TO RIDE, SWIM, CLIMB MOUNTAINS, COOK AND SEW.



DESPITE HER FAILING HEALTH, MARIE CONTINUED HER INTENSE RESEARCH. IN 1911, SHE WAS AWARDED SECOND NOBEL PRIZE, THIS TIME IN CHEMISTRY. SHE WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO RECEIVE THE HONOUR TWICE. LITTLE IRENE WHO ATTENDED THE FUNCTION WITH HER MOTHER WAS TO RECEIVE THE SAME PRIZE TWENTY FOUR YEARS LATER.



SCIENTISTS IN HER NATIVE POLAND SET UP A LABORATORY OF RADIOACTIVITY IN WARSAW AND INVITED HER TO RETURN TO HER HOMETLAND.

THEY WANT ME TO BECOME THE DIRECTOR. I CANNOT ACCEPT BUT I WILL SEND TWO OF MY BEST ASSISTANTS.

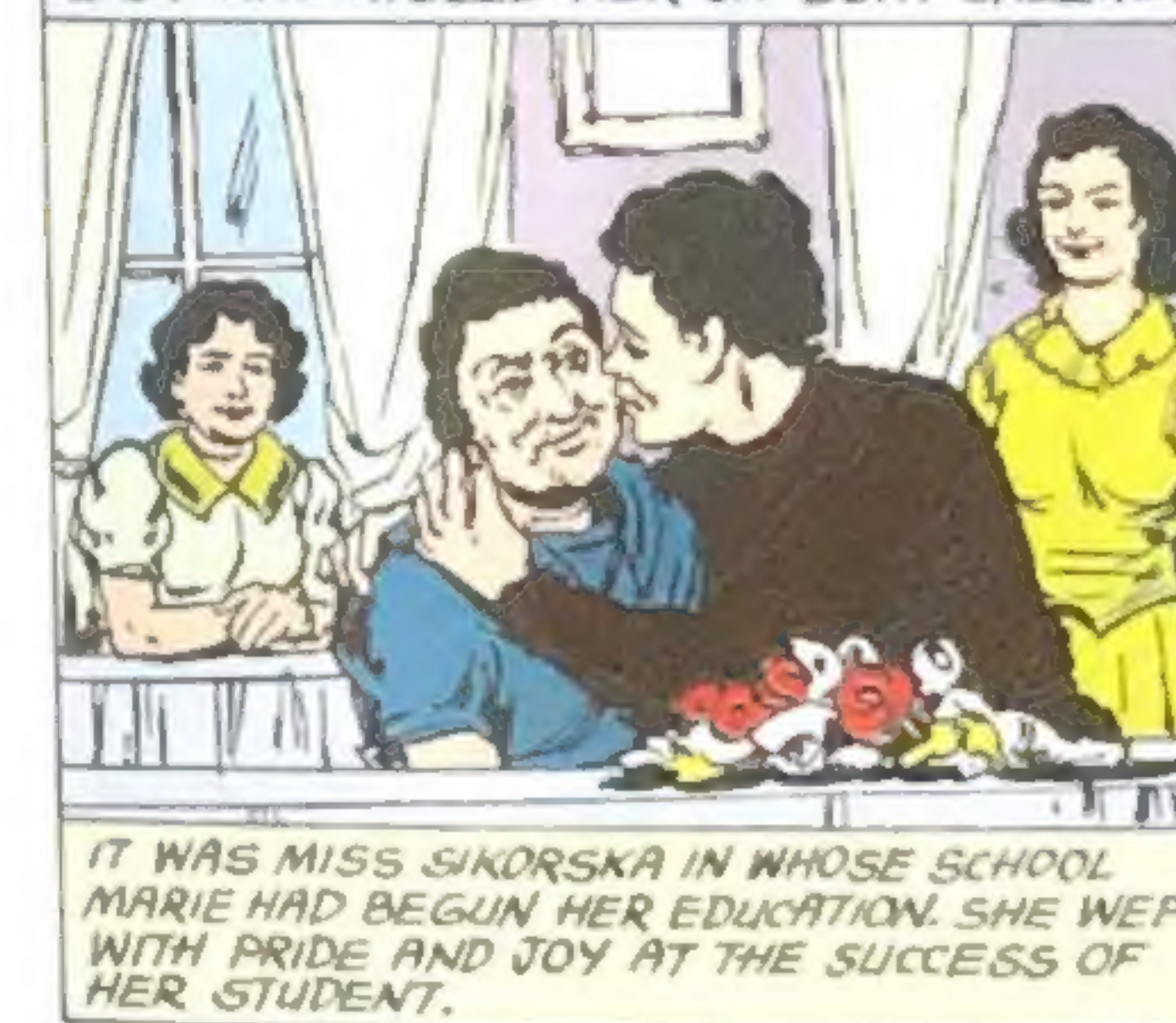


THOUGH SHE WAS ILL, MARIE WENT TO WARSAW FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE LABORATORY. AT ONE OF THE RECEPTIONS—

THE OLD LADY AT THE SECOND TABLE LOOKS FAMILIAR.

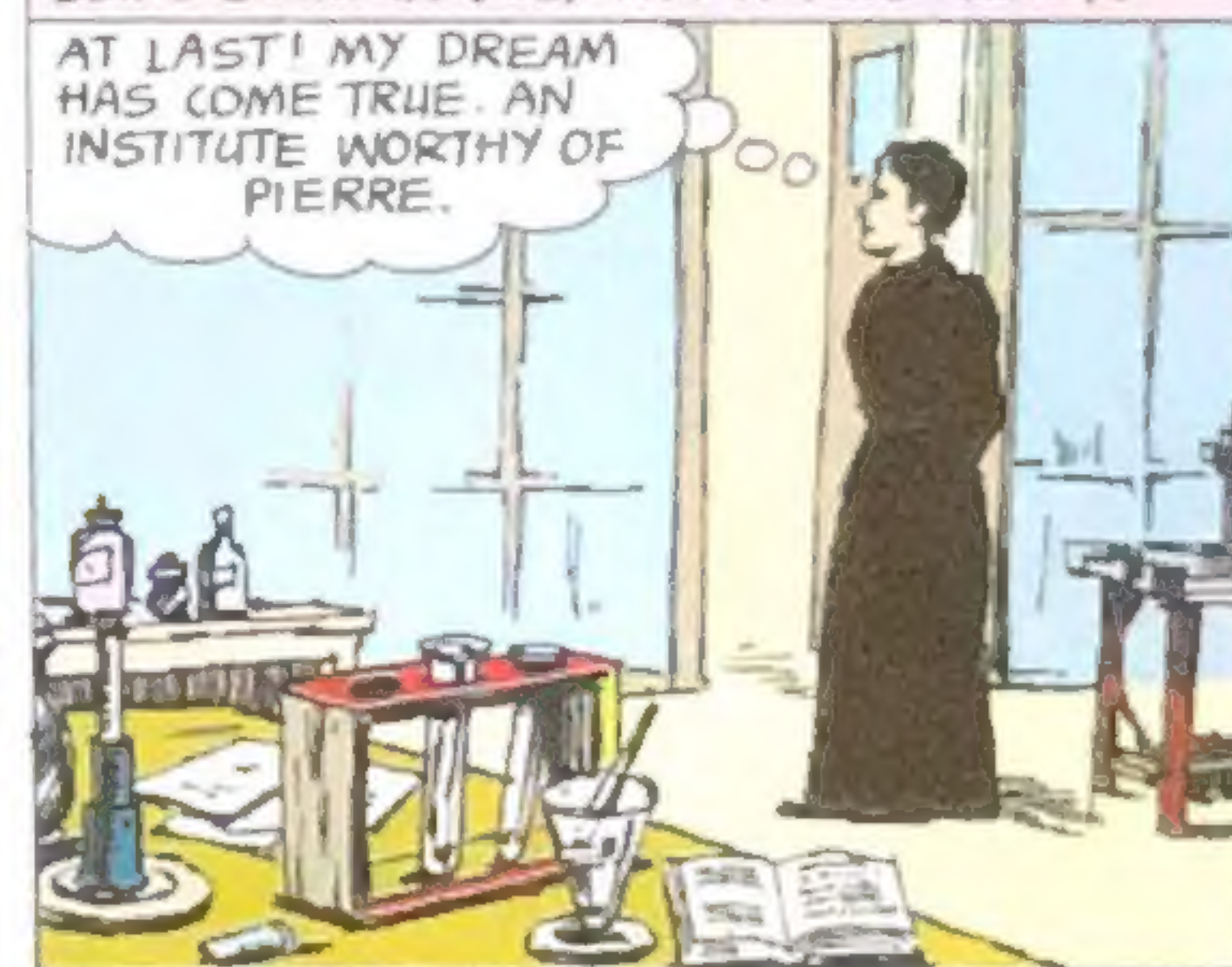


ON AN IMPULSE MARIE HURRIED TO THE OLD LADY AND KISSED HER ON BOTH CHEEKS.



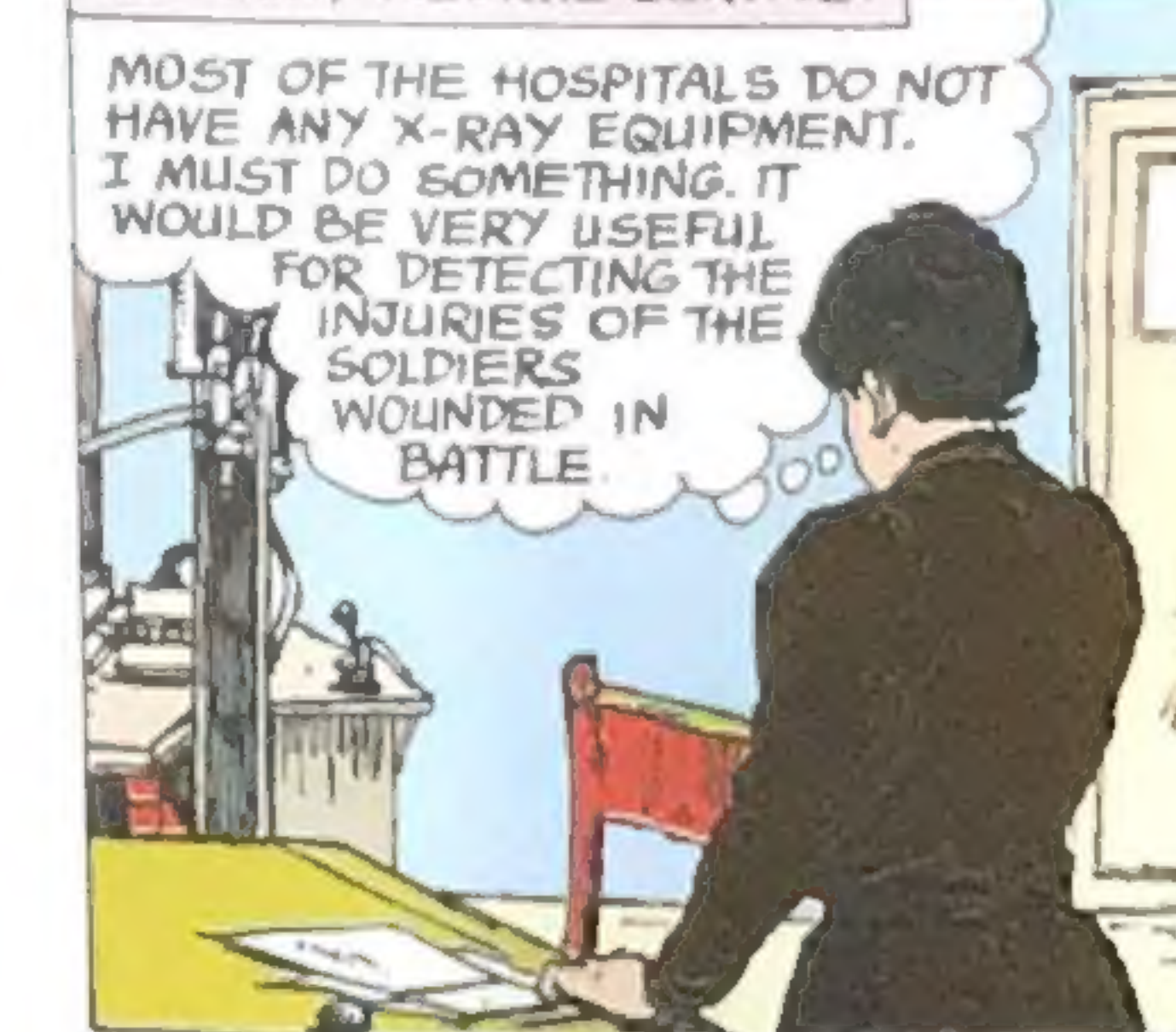
IT WAS MISS SIKORSKA IN WHOSE SCHOOL MARIE HAD BEGUN HER EDUCATION. SHE WEPT WITH PRIDE AND JOY AT THE SUCCESS OF HER STUDENT.

IN PARIS TOO, AN INSTITUTE OF RADIUM WAS BEING BUILT. IN JULY 1914 IT WAS READY.



AT LAST! MY DREAM HAS COME TRUE. AN INSTITUTE WORTHY OF PIERRE.

THAT WAS THE YEAR WORLD WAR I BROKE OUT. MARIE DEVOTED HERSELF TO HELPING THE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.



MOST OF THE HOSPITALS DO NOT HAVE ANY X-RAY EQUIPMENT. I MUST DO SOMETHING. IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR DETECTING THE INJURIES OF THE SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN BATTLE.

MOST OF THE SOLDIERS WERE TREATED AT TEMPORARY MAKE-SHIFT HOSPITALS.

HOW CAN I REACH THEM IN TIME? I KNOW! I MUST HAVE A MOBILE X-RAY UNIT. I WILL PUT THE APPARATUS AND A DYNAMO IN AN ORDINARY CAR.





SHE ALSO ARRANGED TO SET UP 200 X-RAY ROOMS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.



IRENE, NOW 17, BEGAN TO HELP HER MOTHER, WHO FOUND A CHARMING AND INTELLIGENT COMPANION IN HER TEENAGE DAUGHTER.



MARIE GAVE UP ALL HER SAVINGS INCLUDING THE MONEY OF THE SECOND NOBEL PRIZE FOR THE WAR EFFORT.



WHEN THE WAR ENDED AT LAST IN 1918, MARIE WAS DOUBLY HAPPY.



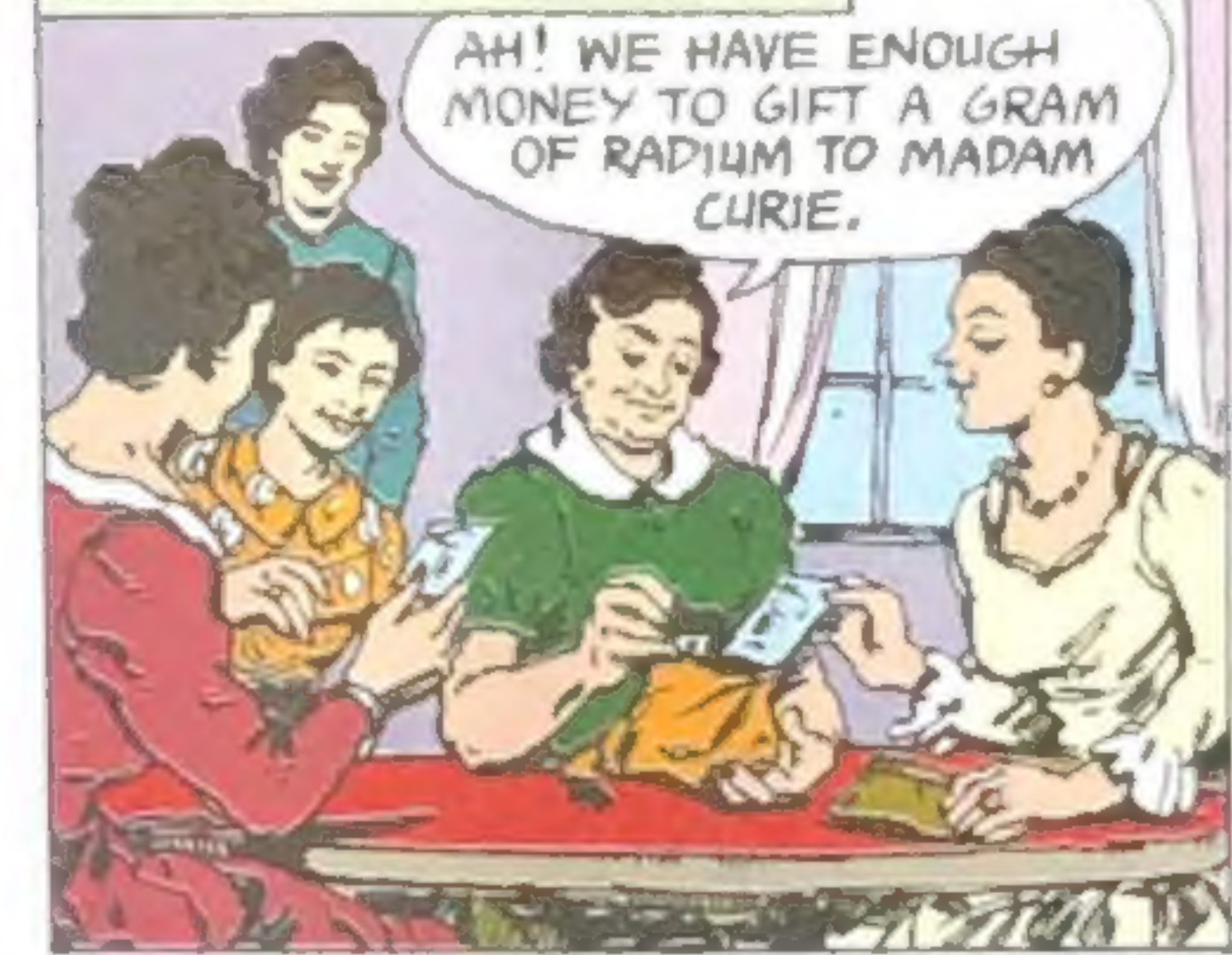
THE RADIUM INSTITUTE BEGAN TO FUNCTION WITH MARIE AS THE HEAD OF THE LABORATORY.



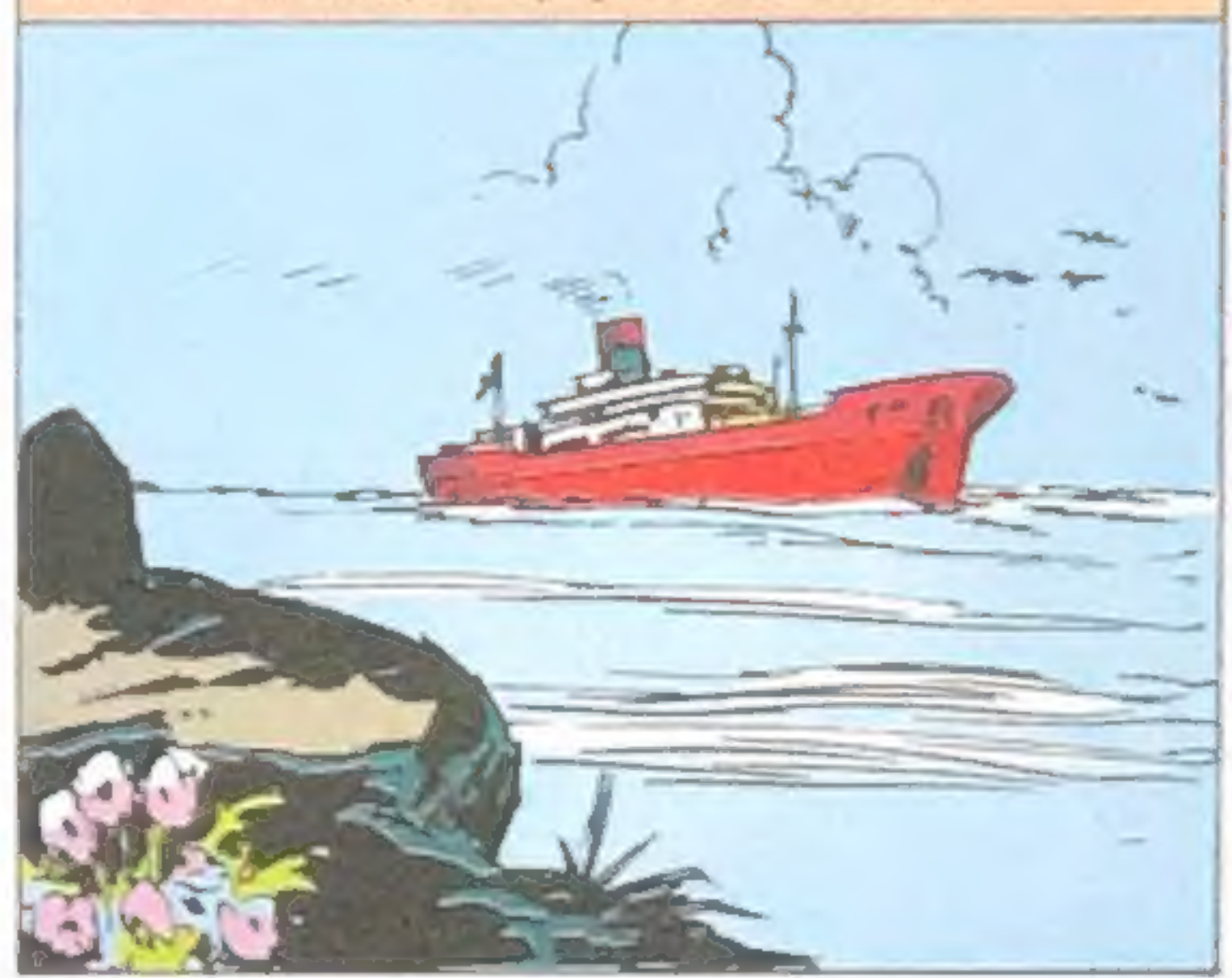
ONE DAY, AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST, MRS. MALONEY VISITED THE RADIUM INSTITUTE.



MRS. MALONEY WAS AN ARDENT ADMIRER OF MARIE CURIE. ON HER RETURN TO AMERICA SHE ARRANGED A COLLECTION DRIVE AMONG AMERICAN WOMEN. SOON—



MARIE CURIE WAS INVITED TO AMERICA. IN 1921, WITH HER DAUGHTERS, SHE SET SAIL.



SHE RECEIVED A TUMULTUOUS WELCOME IN AMERICA. MEDALS, PRIZES AND AWARDS WERE SHOWERED UPON HER. ON MAY 20, THE PRESIDENT OF AMERICA PRESENTED HER THE GRAM OF RADIUM.



LATER, THEY VISITED MANY AMERICAN CITIES. IRENE AND EVE ENJOYED THE TOUR BUT MARIE CURIE BEGAN TO TIRE OF THE ENDLESS CEREMONIES.



ON JUNE 28, THEY RETURNED TO PARIS. IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS MARIE VISITED SEVERAL COUNTRIES.



IN WARSAW, BRONYA, MARIE'S ELDER SISTER WHO HAD ALWAYS BEEN A GREAT SUPPORT, WAS BUSY.





A COUNTRY-WIDE COLLECTION DRIVE WAS LAUNCHED USING POSTERS AND POSTCARDS.



PEOPLE RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY. IN 1925 MARIE WAS INVITED TO LAY THE CORNER STONE OF THE INSTITUTE. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC LAID THE FIRST STONE AND MARIE, THE SECOND, THE PRESIDENT, WHO HAD BEEN HER COMRADE IN PARIS, RECALLED THEIR STUDENT DAYS.

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU LENT ME A TRAVELLING CUSHION FOR MY JOURNEY TO POLAND?

YES! I EVEN REMEMBER THAT YOU FORGOT TO RETURN IT TO ME.



MEANWHILE IRENE HAD MARRIED FREDERIC JOLIOT, HER MOST BRILLIANT CO-WORKER AT THE RADIUM INSTITUTE IN PARIS.



NOW MARIE AND EVE LIVED ALONE. SOMETIMES WHEN EVE WENT OUT IN THE EVENING—

OH GOOD! MA IS RESTING WITH THE NOVEL I GAVE HER.



BUT ON HER RETURN LATE AT NIGHT, SHE WOULD FIND HER MOTHER ABSORBED IN CALCULATIONS, HER PAPERS SPRAWLED ALL OVER THE FLOOR.



AND YET IN THE MORNING ON THE DOT OF NINE, MARIE CURIE WOULD BE AT THE INSTITUTE, EAGERLY AWAITED BY A GROUP OF HER STUDENTS.

MADAM, I'VE GOT SOME INTERESTING RESULT TO SHOW YOU.

MADAM, I REPEATED THE EXPERIMENTS AS SUGGESTED BY YOU.



SOMETIMES, WAYLaid BY THEIR QUERIES AND COMMENTS, SHE WOULD FIND HERSELF ON THE STEPS OF THE INSTITUTE.



AFTER FORTY YEARS OF RESEARCH MARIE CURIE WAS A LIVING ENCYCLOPAEDIA ON THE SUBJECT OF RADIUM. YET FEW OF HER STUDENTS SUSPECTED HER FAILING EYESIGHT AND HEARING FOR WHICH SHE WAS REPEATEDLY TREATED.



ALTHOUGH STRICT WITH HER STUDENTS ABOUT THE HANDLING OF RADIUM, MARIE TOOK UNWISE RISKS HERSELF. HER HANDS HAD PAINFUL BURNS AND HER BLOOD WAS NO LONGER HEALTHY. ON A SUNNY DAY IN MAY, 1934 —



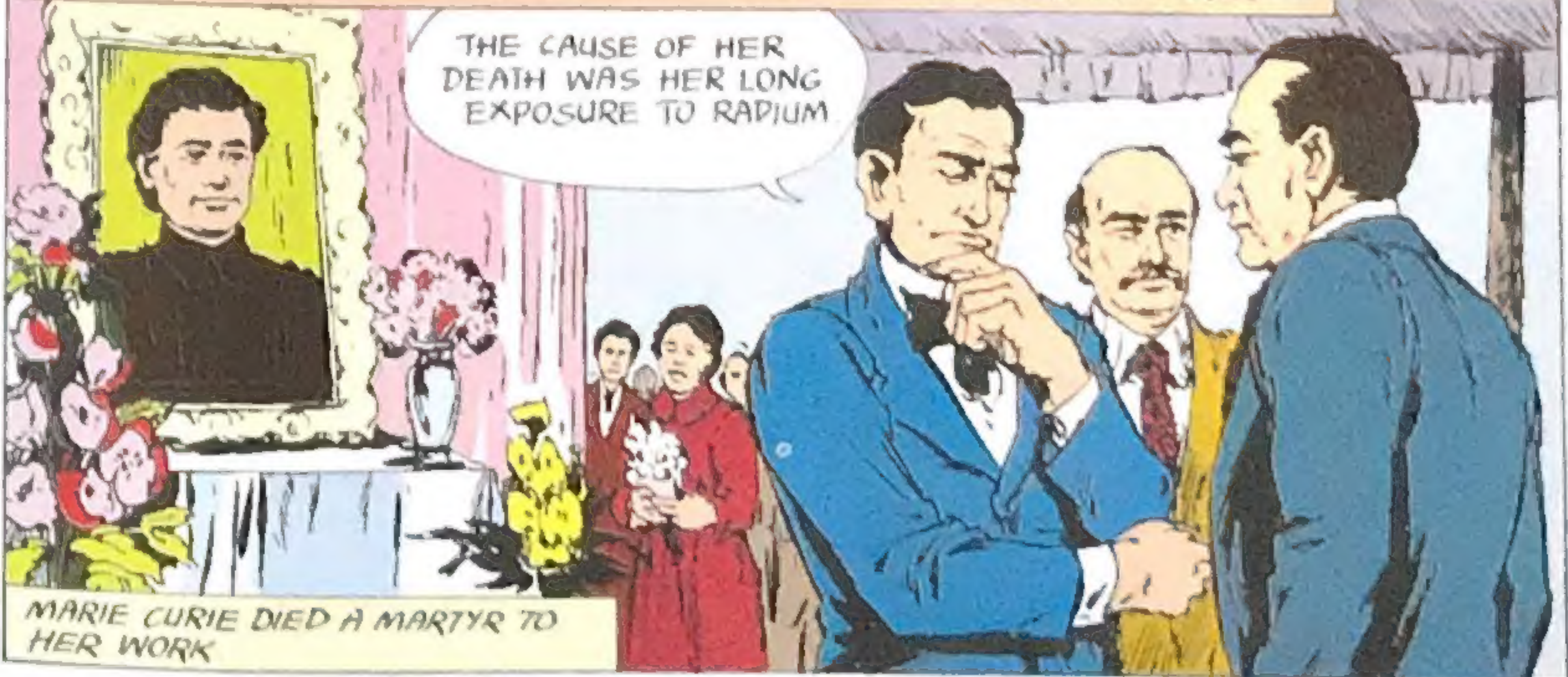
I HAVE FEVER, I MUST GO HOME

SHE WENT HOME TO REST BUT DID NOT LEAVE HER BED AGAIN. A NUMBER OF DOCTORS EXAMINED HER.

PERHAPS HER LUNGS ARE AFFECTED. SHE SHOULD BE IN A SANATORIUM.



RELUCTANTLY SHE AGREED TO BE TAKEN TO A SANATORIUM. BUT IT WAS THERE AFTER HER PEACEFUL DEATH ON JULY 4, 1934 THAT THE TRUE DISEASE WAS DIAGNOSED—



THE CAUSE OF HER DEATH WAS HER LONG EXPOSURE TO RADIUM

MARIE CURIE DIED A MARTYR TO HER WORK